JUDGE DREDD
AMERICA
JOHN WAGNER ★ COLIN MACNEIL

JUDGE DREDD

AMERICA

JUDGE DREDD CREATED BY JOHN WAGNER AND CARLOS EZQUERRA

JUDGE DREDD

AMERICA

JOHN WAGNER
Writer

COLIN MACNEIL
Artist

Rebellion

Creative Director and CEO: Jason Kingsley
Chief Technical Officer: Chris Kingsley
2000 AD Editor in Chief: Matt Smith
Graphic Novels Editor: Keith Richardson
Graphic Design: Simon Parr & Luke Preece
Marketing and PR: Michael Molcher
Reprographics: Kathryn Symes
Original Commissioning Editors: Steve MacManus, John Tomlinson, David Bishop and Matt Smith

Originally serialised in the *Judge Dredd Megazine* 1.01-1.07, 3.20-3.25, 250-252. Copyright © 1990, 1991, 2006, 2012 Rebellion A/S. All Rights Reserved. Judge Dredd and all related characters, their distinctive likenesses and related elements featured in this publication are trademarks of Rebellion A/S. *2000 AD* is a registered trademark. The stories, characters and incidents featured in this publication are entirely fictional.

Published by Rebellion, Riverside House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, UK.
www.rebellion.co.uk

ISBN: 978-1-905437-58-0
Printed in Malta by Gutenberg Press
Manufactured in the EU by LPPS Ltd., Wellingborough, NN8 3PJ, UK
Second Printing: June 2012
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Printed on FSC Accredited Paper

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

For information on other 2000 AD graphic novels, or if you have any comments on this book, please email books@2000ADonline.com

To find out more about 2000 AD, visit www.2000ADonline.com

INTRODUCTION

Managing editor Steve MacManus caught me with a hard right hook as I entered his office. I crashed against the wall. He was on me before I could slump to the floor, his face locked in a rictus of anger, and in his hand the dull glint of a Luger P08 semi-automatic pistol, a souvenir from his days on *Battle Picture Weekly*.

"Your lead story for the *Megazine* is about as exciting as my granny!" Uh-oh, I thought. I could take a punch but no freelance likes rejection. The barrel of Steve's luger was pressing deep enough in my ear to give me a wax job. "You've got twenty-four hours to turn it round or you're a freakin' statistic – get me?"

Perhaps not quite the way it happened but if a comic writer can't fantasise a little, who can? It was 1990. With the Judge Dredd movie due out soon, there was no better time to launch the future lawman's own title – the *Judge Dredd Megazine*. 'Megazine' was Steve's word. I didn't care for it much at first, but it grew. Like a lot of things – Dredd's uniform, for instance, way back all those years ago when I first saw Carlos's sketches.

The 'Meg' was to take a more in depth, adult approach to Dredd and his world, and the lead story had to crystallise that, to set the tone for the whole comic.

I was called 'consultant' but initially I was working on the project full time. I didn't particularly like it; it reminded me how hard editorial was and why I gave it up for the easier life of a freelance. In addition I was writing 'Young Death – Boyhood of a Superfiend', 'Al's Baby' and this story.

I seldom work a plot out in great detail. I like to have a fair idea of where a story's heading and a few interesting elements that occur along the way, but at the same time am more than willing to abandon all preconceptions and veer off in whatever direction plot developments or characters dictate. Let them take me where they will. I feel it makes the story more spontaneous (others might just call it lazy).

This story was different. This time I had to nail it down tight. There was no room for error. I tried to gather together all my thoughts about Judge Dredd, as if everything I and former co-writer Alan Grant and many others had done was a build up to this one tale. What would it really be like to live in Dredd's monster city? A broad sweep, from birth to death in the Mega-City – the bizarre, claustrophobic, often chilling view from Joe Citizen. But at the same time Joe Dredd had to have his say as well. Hero or villain – which was he?

Getting there was, as usual, a struggle, but once I had the title – once I knew who and what America was – the story started to put itself together without a lot of pushing and prodding from me. That's when you know it's working.

Carlos Ezquerra was the obvious choice on art, he was Dredd's creator. But – selfishly – I needed him on *Al's Baby*. We were breaking new ground there and Carlos was – and still is – the best character creator I know. He was also happiest and in my opinion at his best when working on something new.

Instead the art duties went to Colin MacNeil. His work on a recent series had been so exceptional that he was an obvious choice.

Colin didn't disappoint. His first pages were knock-me-down good. He'd captured the flavour of the story, of the city, with some of the best painted art I'd seen. The result you can see and enjoy on the following pages.

This volume also contains two sequels. Some felt 'Fading of the Light' was a story too far, that it should have ended with 'America'. I admit to some second thoughts myself, but in the main I'm pleased with where we are – because 'Fading of the Light' begat 'Cadet', and I like the way things have turned out.

Not that I planned it that way. The characters took over, you see, and took me where they would. And now a whole new range of possibilities has opened up.

John Wagner

AMERICA

Script: John Wagner
Art: Colin MacNeil
Letters: Annie Parkhouse

Originally published in *Judge Dredd Megazine* 1.01–1.07

WHERE DO I STAND?
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE I STAND.
I STAND FOUR-SQUARE FOR JUSTICE. I STAND FOR DISCIPLINE, GOOD ORDER AND THE RIGID APPLICATION OF THE LAW — AND GRUD HELP ANY LIMP-WRIST LIBERALS WHO SAY DIFFERENT.
THE PEOPLE, THEY KNOW WHERE I STAND. THEY NEED RULES TO LIVE BY — I PROVIDE THEM. THEY BREAK THE RULES, I BREAK THEM. THAT'S THE WAY IT WORKS.
THE PEOPLE LIKE IT THAT WAY. THEY NEED TO KNOW WHERE THEY STAND.
RIGHTS?
SURE. I'M ALL FOR RIGHTS. BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF ORDER.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE TO SEE THAT STATUE OF JUDGEMENT STANDING THERE, TOWERING OVER LIBERTY.
KIND OF A SYMBOL.

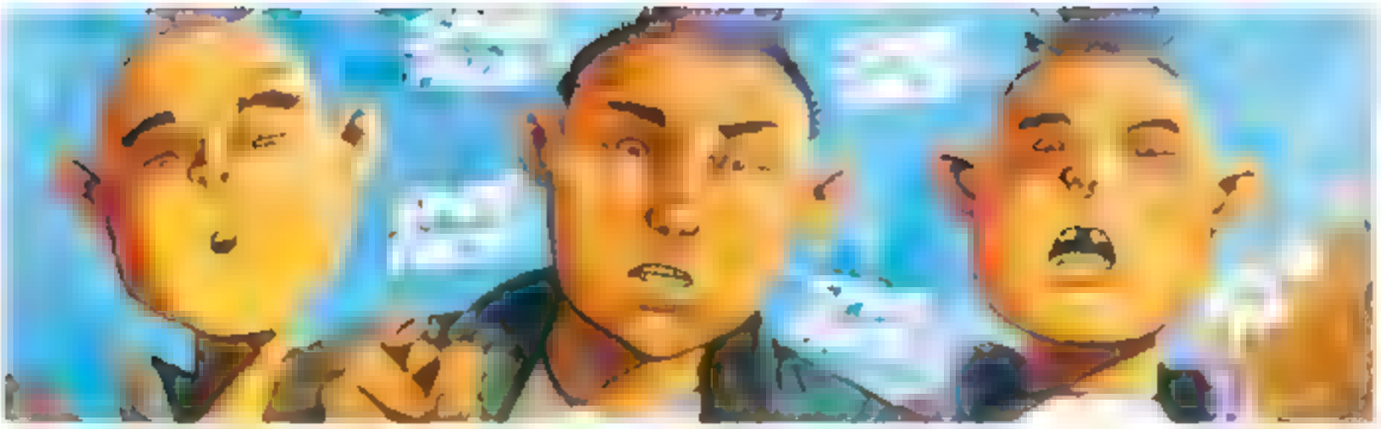
JUSTICE HAS A PRICE.
THE PRICE IS FREEDOM.

THIS IS A LOVE STORY.
TALK OF THE MEG
BENNETT BEENY
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU HOW I LOVED A WOMAN... LOVED HER FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I CAN REMEMBER— LOVE HER STILL, THOUGH THE SPARK THAT ANIMATED HER HAS LONG SINCE BEEN CRUSHED OUT.
AND I'LL TELL YOU HOW I BETRAYED HER — AND WHEN I'VE FINISHED YOU'LL DESPISE ME FOR WHAT I DID.

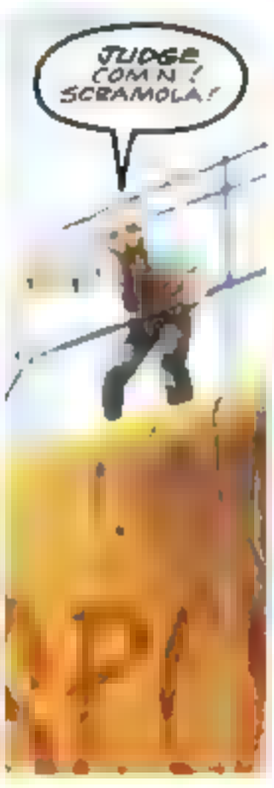
I WAS FOOLISH THEN. I DIDN'T—OR WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
BUT I'M NOT TRYING TO EXCUSE MYSELF. PLEASE, HATE AWAY. I DESERVE IT.
THE MEG
BENNET BEENY
THOUGH WHETHER ANY MAN DESERVES THE PUNISHMENT I INFLICTED ON MYSELF... ONLY YOU CAN JUDGE.
AMERICA.
TODAY HER EYES STARE BACK AT ME, SAD AND EMPTY... NO TRACE NOW OF THE FIRE THAT ONCE BURNED SO FIERCE IN THEM.
BUT I REMEMBER AMERICA.
I WAS THERE. FROM FIRST TO LAST, FROM THE MOMENT SHE CAME HOWLING INTO THIS SICK WORLD...
I WAS THERE, AT THE BIRTHDAY PARTY...
MADRE GRODDD—!!
PUSH, ALVIEA!
AHHHHH!
ALMOST THERE! ONE MORE TIME!
SHE'S COMIN'!
WAAAAAA

WONDERFUL, MRS. JARA! WONDERFUL!
WAY TO GO, ALVIRA!
LOOK AT 'ER! EES THAT NO' A BEAUTIFUL GIRL EH? EES THAT NO' A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!
A NEW FRIEND FOR YOU BENNY!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO CALL HER MR JARA?
WELL, I TELL YOU! WE COME HERE, WE JOS' POOR DUMB IMMIES. WE GOT NOTHIN'. THEES CITY, SHE TAKE US EEN — GEEV US SHELTER.
I MEAN, WE STILL AIN'T GOT MOCH, MAN. BOT AT LEAST WE GOT HOPE. WE GOT PROSPECTS! WE ARE HERE — AMERICA — THE LAN' O THE FREE AN' THE BRAVE!
AN' EEN HONOUR OF OUR NEW HOME THAT IS WHA WE GONNA CALL HER —
AMERICA!

♫ HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA ♫
AMERICA... HOW LIKE HER NAME HER LIFE WOULD BE, THOUGH WE DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN BORN IN HOPE, WITH A DREAM — DIED IN DISILLUSIONMENT — AND DESPAIR.
LEESEN TO HER! GOT A LOT TO SAY FOR HERSELF ALREADY! SHE GONNA GO FAR, THEES ONE!
AMERICA! AMERICA! GOD SHED HEES GRIEF ON THEE!
THAT IS "GRACE", MR JARA
EH?
NOT GRIEF — IT IS GRACE. GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE
OH YES... SI, SI.
GRACE

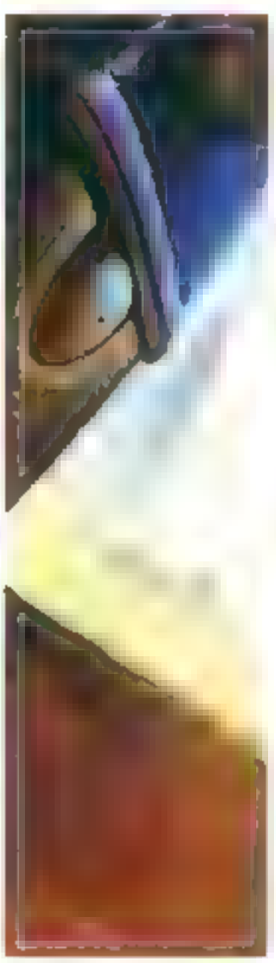


BENNY!


JUDGE COMN! SCRAMOLA!

YOU SCUMMERS! DON'T YOU EVER COME BACK HERE AGAIN!

TH-THEY BROKE MY GITTER...
DON'T CRY, BENNY. I'LL BUY YOU A NEW ONE.
TH-THEY COST AN AWFUL LOT, AM!...



I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE JUDGES.
I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE THEY WERE ALWAYS THERE. A DARK PRESENCE IN THE BACKGROUND OF OUR LIVES — AS MUCH A PART OF GROWING UP AS THE AIR THAT WE BREATHED AND THE STREETS THAT WE PLAYED ON.
WHEREVER WE WENT THEY WERE THERE. WATCHING. ALWAYS WATCHING.
THEY COULD FIX YOU WITH A SPECIAL KIND OF STARE, LIKE THEY COULD LOOK RIGHT INTO YOUR SOUL.
ADULTS, THEY'D TELL US THE JUDGES WERE THERE FOR OUR GOOD, TO PROTECT US AND MAKE OUR STREETS SAFE
BUT WE'D HEAR THE TREMOR IN THEIR VOICES WHEN THEY TALKED ABOUT THEM AND SEE THEIR FURTIVE EXPRESSIONS WHENEVER A JUDGE CAUGHT THEIR EYE — AND WE'D KNOW THEY WERE AFRAID.
AND AT NIGHT MOTHERS WOULD TUCK US IN WITH DIRE WARNINGS — SLEEP OR THE JUDGES WOULD COME FOR US.

SO WE DIDN'T NEED GHOSTS OR GOBLINS OR VAMPIRES. WE HAD THE JUDGES.
AND THEY WERE WORSE
WE KNEW THEY DID EXIST
AND THERE WAS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THEY WOULD COME FOR US
SO I DON'T
I BECAME AWARE OF THEM, BUT I
FIRST ENCOUNTER MY STOMACH STILL KNOTS UP WHEN I THINK OF IT. TO THIS SINGLE MOMENT I ATTRIBUTE MY LIFELONG TERROR OF AUTHORITY
NAME?
B-BENNETT BEENY, 612 APARTMENT 41-30, FRED NIETZSCHE.
BEEN FIGHTING, SON?
Y-YES, SIR..
YOU LIKE FIGHTING?
N-N-NO, SIR...
WE'VE GOT PLACES WE PUT BOYS WHO FIGHT. YOU WANT TO GO TO THE JUVE CUBES, SON?
N NO, SIR...
LOCKED UP, ALL BY YOURSELF—
N-NO!
BY GRUD, IF I THOUGHT YOU WERE A TROUBLEMAKER-
ARE YOU A TROUBLE-MAKER, SON?
N N NO! PLEASE—! I'M NOT A TROUBLE-MAKER!

P PLEASE D. DON'T SEND ME TO THE JUVE CUBES! I'M SORRY! I'LL N-N-NEVER FIGHT AGAIN! I PROMISE! PLEASE
LEAVE HIM ALONE! HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING!
SOME BAD BOYS BEAT HIM UP AND BROKE H'S GITTER! IT'S THEM YOU SHOULD BE CHASING, NOT MAKING BENNY CRY!
WELL, WELL WORD FROM THE PEANUT GALLERY.
YOU WANT TO WATCH THAT LIP, KID. T'LL LAND YOU IN TROUBLE
NAME?
MY NAME IS AMERICA JARA I LIVE AT APARTMENT 41-31, FRED NIETZSCHE BLOCK— AND I CAN SAY WHAT I LIKE COS MY DAD SAYS THIS IS AMERICA AND IT'S A FREE COUNTRY.
YEAH? WHAT CENTURY'S HE LIVING IN?
THIS AIN'T AMERICA ANYMORE, KID. TH'S IS MEGA-CITY ONE — AND YOU AND YOUR OLD MAN HAVE GOT A LOT TO LEARN.
CONTROL, WHAT WE GOT ON A BEENY, BENNETT— TWO "T"S — OR JARA, AMERICA— THAT'S A-M-E-R-I-C-A— BOTH RESIDENTS FRED NIETZSCHE? POSSIBLE YP OFFENDERS.
NEGATIVE ON BOTH BOY'S FATHER ONE EDGAR J. BEENY, DECEASED VICTIM OF SERIAL KILLER, DAVID DUCHESSE.
I REMEMBER... DAVE THE ORTHODONTIST.
CHECK. STILL GOT BEENY SEN'OR'S TEETH IN THE BLACK MUSEUM, IF YOU WANT THEM
JARA FAMILY ARE IMMIGRANTS, PUERTO RICAN WASTES, STILL DOING TWENTY YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD, GIRL'S A LEGAL CITIZEN THOUGH.

HE TOOK A DESCRIPTION OF THE JUVES. I'VE OFTEN WONDERED IF HE EVER CAUGHT THEM.
I DON'T SUPPOSE IT MATTERS.
DON'T WORRY, BENNY HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU.
STRANGE. HOW TWO PEOPLE CAN BE SO DIFFERENT, YET SO CLOSE
AMI -- BRIGHT AS A BUTTON, AFRAID OF NO ONE SHE WAS THE STRONG ONE SHE NEVER CRIED. SOMEHOW IT ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE ME WHO ENDED IN TEARS..
WH-WHAT IF HE TELLS MY MUM?
SHE WON'T SAY ANYTHING. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

BUT WE MADE HER CRY, IN THE END. ME AND THE JUDGES.
OH, YES. WE GOT TO HER... IN THE END.
HE WAS A BAD MAN, BENNY.

IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT EVERY CRIMINAL, EVERY SINGLE PERP THERE EVER WAS, STARTED OUT AS A JUVE. THAT'S WHERE TO CATCH THE PROBLEM.

PUT THE FEAR OF GOD INTO THEM RIGHT FROM THE START.

I LIKE TO GIVE THEM THE STARE — A LONG, HARD LOOK —

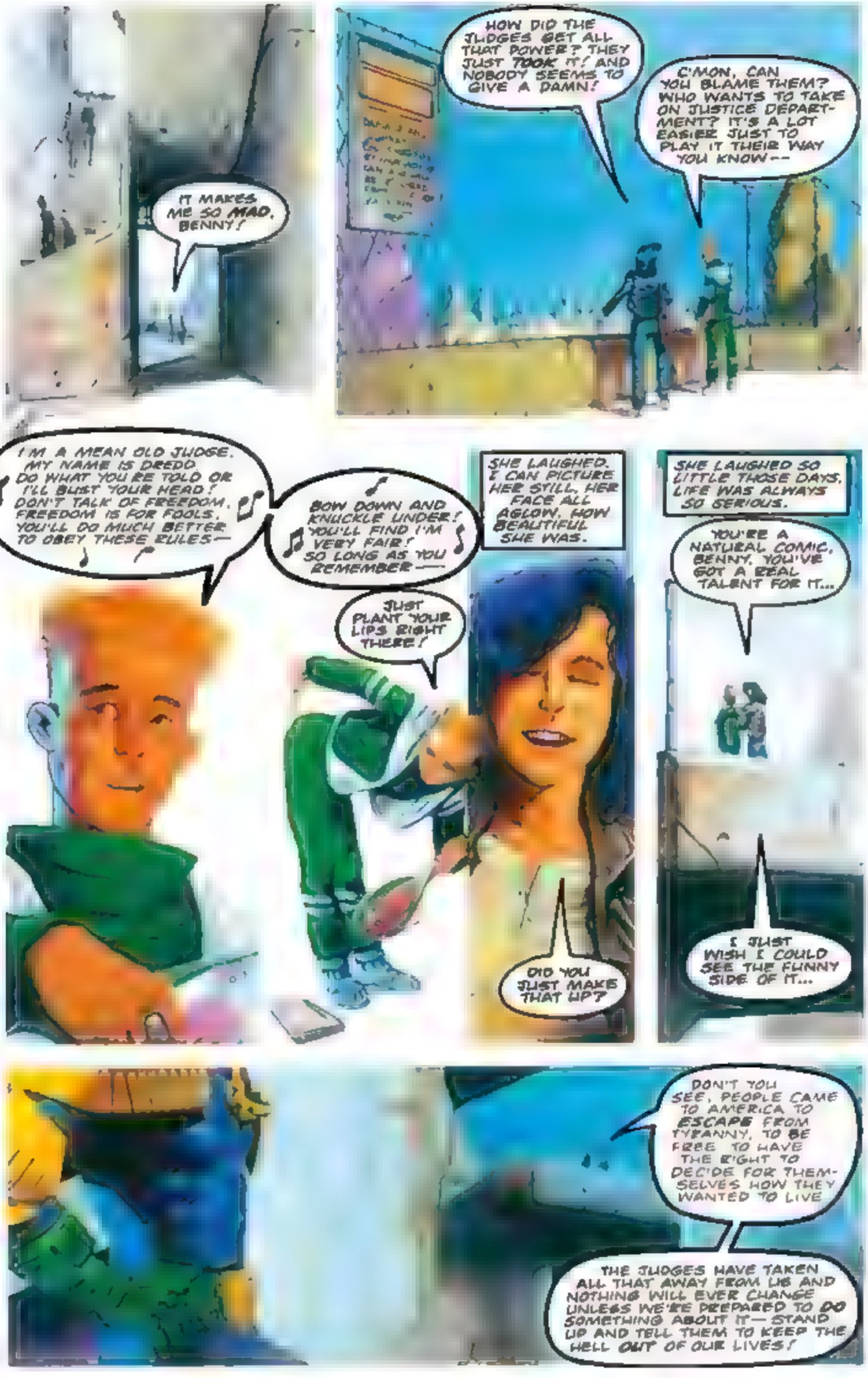
A LOOK THAT SAYS: I KNOW YOU, JUVEY. I'M KEEPING A SPECIAL EYE ON YOU.

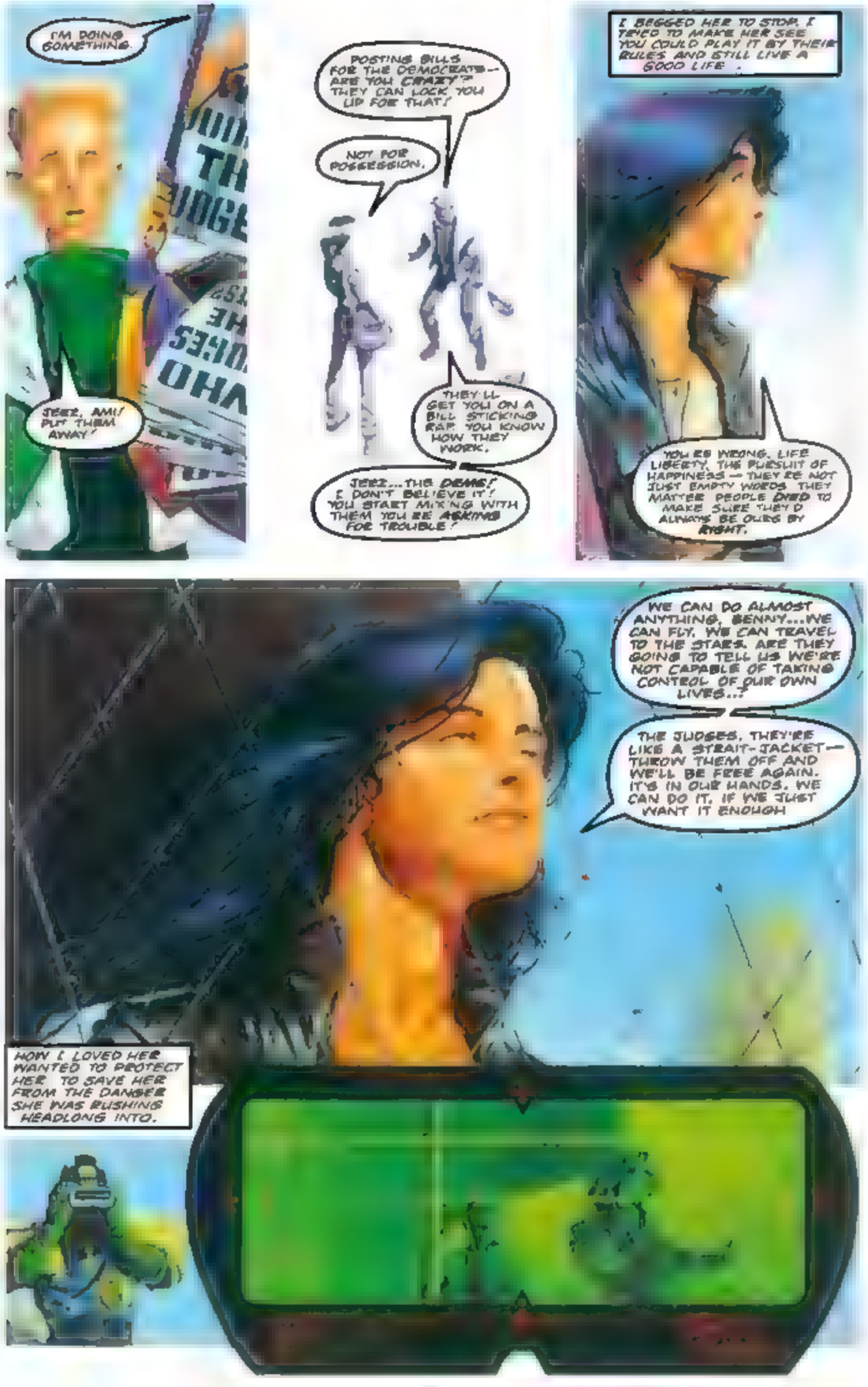
MAKE ONE WRONG MOVE AND I'LL BE THERE.

YES, GIVE ME THE JUVE AT FIVE AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE MODEL CITIZEN —

— OR ONE WHO THINKS LONG AND HARD BEFORE HE STEPS OVER THE LINE.

Jefferson 1743 1826
LIFE — LIBERTY — THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS — THESE THREE GREAT PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH OUR ANCIENT NATION WAS FOUNDED.
FE : LIBERTY : PURSUIT OF
I MEAN, YOU DROP A PIECE OF LITTER AND THE JUDGES CAN LOCK YOU UP FOR IT. JAYWALK AND IT'S PRACTICALLY A CAPITAL OFFENCE
SHE'S OFF AGAIN —!
SHUT UP, GOBBER!
SO WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M SORRY AMERICA --?
WHERE'S LIBERTY GONE?
THEY CAN BREAK INTO YOUR HOME ANY TIME THEY LIKE. THEY CAN BEAT YOU UP AND TORTURE YOU —
COME NOW, I THINK YOU'RE EXAGGERATING
— AND GRUD HELP YOU IF YOUR GENETIC CODE DOESN'T MATCH UP TO THE R HIGH STANDARDS! THEY CALL YOU MUTIE AND BOOT YOU OUT OF THE CITY!
THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THERE'S A PERFECTLY GOOD REASON FOR EVERYTHING.
AND HAPPINESS — THERE'S A JOKE! LOOK AROUND YOU! YOU SEE ANY HAPPY FACES?
SO MUCH FOR LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS!
I'M HAPPY, MAN.
YEAH, 'COS YOU'RE DRUNK.
AT LEAST WE'RE STILL ALIVE, AMERICA. ONE OUT OF THREE'S NOT BAD.


IT MAKES ME SO MAD, BENNY!
HOW DID THE JUDGES GET ALL THAT POWER? THEY JUST TOOK IT! AND NOBODY SEEMS TO GIVE A DAMN!
C'MON, CAN YOU BLAME THEM? WHO WANTS TO TAKE ON JUSTICE DEPARTMENT? IT'S A LOT EASIER JUST TO PLAY IT THEIR WAY YOU KNOW--
I'M A MEAN OLD JUDGE. MY NAME IS DREDD. DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD OR I'LL BUST YOUR HEAD! DON'T TALK OF FREEDOM. FREEDOM IS FOR FOOLS. YOU'LL DO MUCH BETTER TO OBEY THESE RULES—
BOW DOWN AND KNUCKLE UNDER! YOU'LL FIND I'M VERY FAIR! SO LONG AS YOU REMEMBER—
JUST PLANT YOUR LIPS RIGHT THERE!
SHE LAUGHED. I CAN PICTURE HER STILL, HER FACE ALL AGLOW. HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE WAS.
DID YOU JUST MAKE THAT UP?
SHE LAUGHED SO LITTLE THOSE DAYS. LIFE WAS ALWAYS SO SERIOUS.
YOU'RE A NATURAL COMIC, BENNY. YOU'VE GOT A REAL TALENT FOR IT...
I JUST WISH I COULD SEE THE FUNNY SIDE OF IT...
DON'T YOU SEE, PEOPLE CAME TO AMERICA TO ESCAPE FROM TYRANNY, TO BE FREE TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES HOW THEY WANTED TO LIVE
THE JUDGES HAVE TAKEN ALL THAT AWAY FROM US AND NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE UNLESS WE'RE PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT— STAND UP AND TELL THEM TO KEEP THE HELL OUT OF OUR LIVES!


I'M DOING SOMETHING.
JEEZ, AMI! PUT THEM AWAY!
POSTING BILLS FOR THE DEMOCRATS-- ARE YOU CRAZY? THEY CAN LOCK YOU UP FOR THAT!
NOT FOR POSSESSION.
THEY'LL GET YOU ON A BILL STICKING RAP. YOU KNOW HOW THEY WORK.
JEEZ...THE DEMS! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! YOU START MIXING WITH THEM YOU'RE ASKING FOR TROUBLE!
I BEGGED HER TO STOP. I TRIED TO MAKE HER SEE YOU COULD PLAY IT BY THEIR RULES AND STILL LIVE A GOOD LIFE.
YOU'RE WRONG. LIFE LIBERTY, THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS -- THEY'RE NOT JUST EMPTY WORDS. THEY MATTER. PEOPLE DIED TO MAKE SURE THEY'D ALWAYS BE OURS BY RIGHT.
WE CAN DO ALMOST ANYTHING, BENNY...WE CAN FLY. WE CAN TRAVEL TO THE STARS. ARE THEY GOING TO TELL US WE'RE NOT CAPABLE OF TAKING CONTROL OF OUR OWN LIVES...?
THE JUDGES, THEY'RE LIKE A STRAIT-JACKET-- THROW THEM OFF AND WE'LL BE FREE AGAIN. IT'S IN OUR HANDS. WE CAN DO IT, IF WE JUST WANT IT ENOUGH
HOW I LOVED HER. WANTED TO PROTECT HER. TO SAVE HER FROM THE DANGER SHE WAS RUSHING HEADLONG INTO.

I WENT WITH HER ONCE. THREE HOURS OF GUT WRENCHING TERROR

SHE NEVER ASKED ME TO GO AGAIN AND I WAS GRATEFUL

BY 15, SHE'D PICKED UP HER FIRST CONVICTION — ILLEGAL POSTING. THREE MONTHS JUVE CUBES, PLUS MANDATORY REHAB. SHE WAS STARTING TO BE A MARKED TROUBLEMAKER

SHE'D COME OUT OF THE CLOSET HANGING ROUND WITH ALL THE DEMMY CROWD AND FLAUNTING DEM STICKERS ON HER BAG

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY CHILDHOOD ENDED. AMI AND I WERE DRIFTING APART. I WATCHED IT HAPPENING, HATING IT. POWERLESS TO PREVENT IT

OH AMI. CONARD THAT I AM I'D HAVE JOINED THE DAMNED DEMS IF IT MEANT I COULD HAVE HAD YOU. I'D HAVE MARCHED WITH YOU AND FOUGHT WITH YOU AND DIED WITH YOU

YET PART OF ME ALWAYS KNEW IT WAS ONLY A DREAM. A FOOL'S DREAM. SHE WAS LIGHT AND FIRE AND LIGHTNING. AND ME — JUST DULL OLD BENNY BEENY

THE FLAME THAT BURNED IN AMERICA WAS TOO BRIGHT FOR ME EVER TO HOLD

I'D SEE HER TURNING HEADS AS WE PASSED, TALL AND PROUD AND SELF-CONFIDENT IN HER GROWING WOMANHOOD — FEELING STRANGELY PRIVILEGED TO BE WITH HER, TO BE SHARING HER SPACE, SHARING THE SAME PLANET

I'D WATCH HER WITH HER NEW FRIENDS, FEELING FOR THE FIRST TIME LIKE AN OUTSIDER

LOVING HER
LONGING FOR HER

AND TOO AFRAID TO TELL HER.

KNOWING WHAT HER ANSWER WOULD BE.

IF I SAID NOTHING, AT LEAST THERE WAS ALWAYS HOPE..

HOPE ENDED TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE GRADUATION BOP...

I'M SORRY, BENNY— I ALREADY SAID I'D GO WITH DOODY.

DOODY MANSON? JEEZ, AMI! HE'S HEAVY IN WITH THE DEMOCRATS ' HELL THE GUY'S ALREADY SPENT HALF HIS LIFE IN JUVE REHAB!

HE'S NO GOOD FOR YOU — HE'S TROUBLE ' I'M THE ONE I LOVE YOU.

THEN IT ALL CAME POURING OUT DUMB WORD STUMBLING AFTER DUMB WORD —AND ALL THE TIME I COULD SEE THE ANSWER WRITTEN ON HER FACE

OH, BENNY.. I LOVE YOU TOO BUT.. NOT THAT WAY..

I KNOW. LIKE A BROTHER, HUH?

WELL, AMI, I GOTTA GO

BENNY...

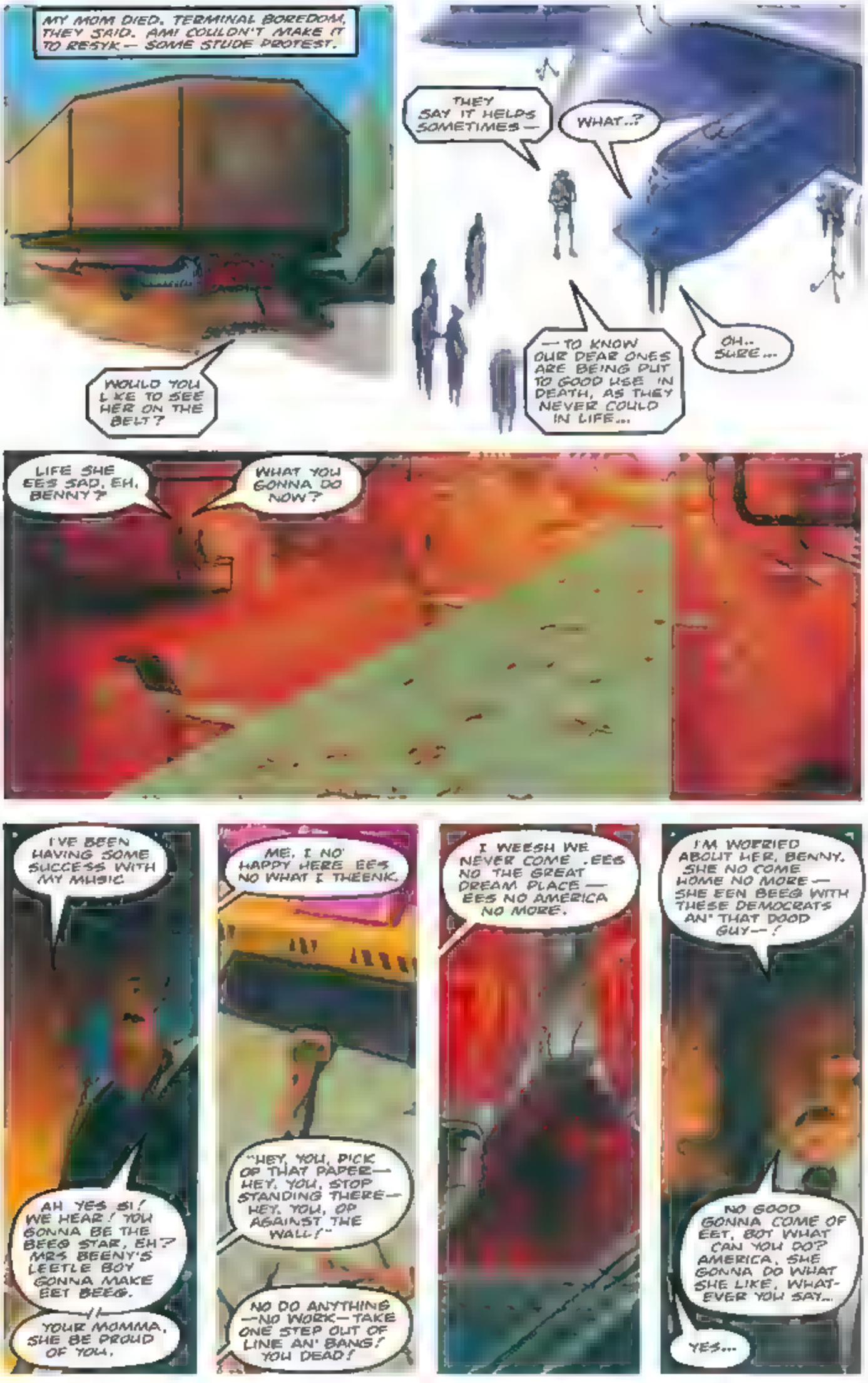
BENNY!

I DO LOVE YOU, HONEST I DO.

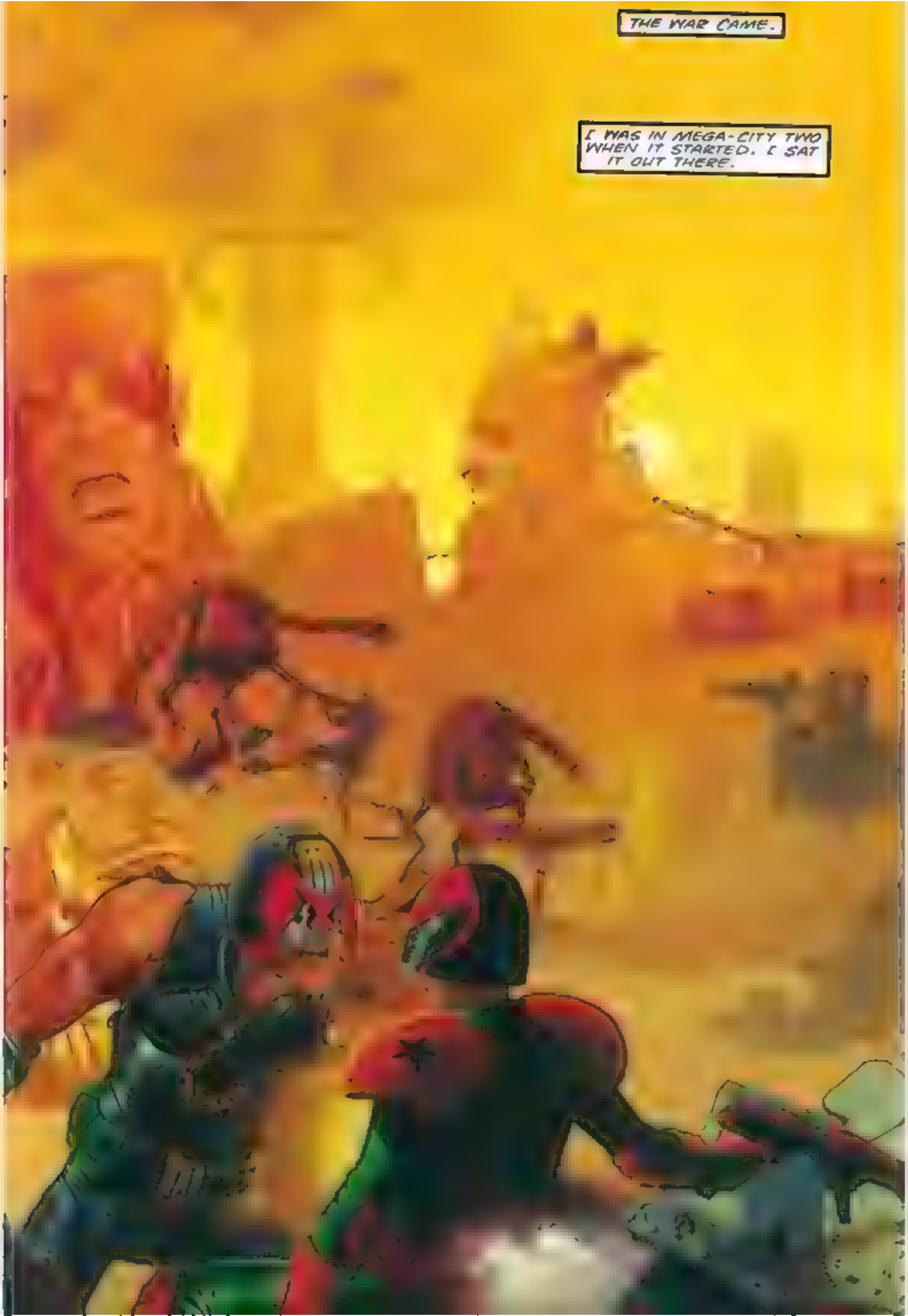
PLEASE DON'T CRY...

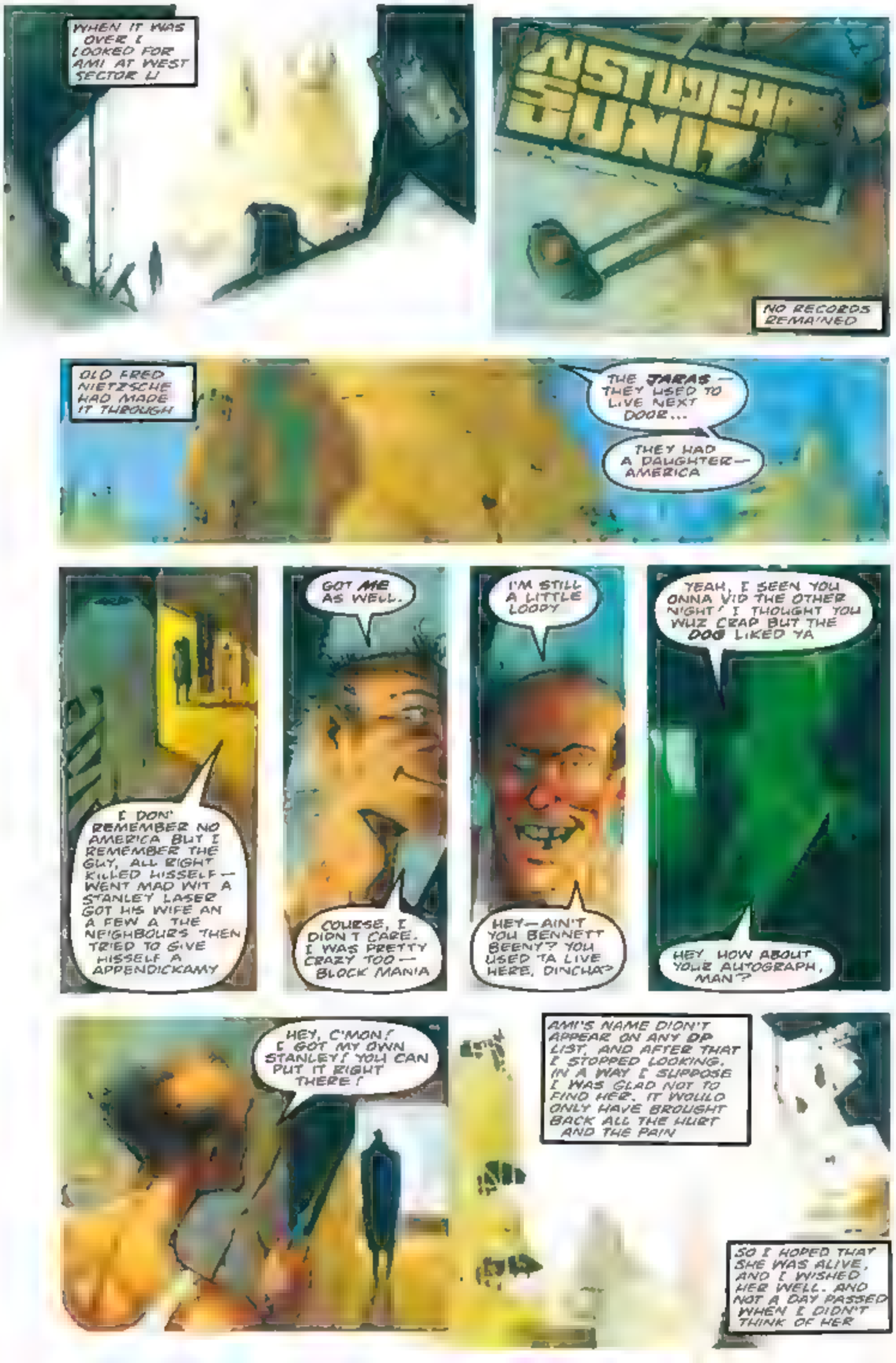
OH BENNY

I WENT TO THE BOP. ALONE
I HAD TO ADMIT, AMI AND DOODY LOOKED GOOD TOGETHER
THEY ASKED ME TO SING A COUPLE OF MY COMEDY SONGS I DID "THE GEEK WHO ATE MY KNEEPAD" AND "THE LIMPTY MAN"
EVERYBODY LAUGHED.
EXCEPT THE COMEDIAN
AMI WENT AWAY TO WEST SECTOR U — POLITICS DOODY WENT TOO. SHE PROMISED SHE'D WRITE REGULARLY AND SHE DID. SHE TOLD ME SHE AND DOODY WERE SHARING A STUDEHAB
THERE'S HARDLY ROOM FOR ONE IN A STUDEHAB. I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ANY MORE


MY MOM DIED. TERMINAL BOREDOM, THEY SAID. AMI COULDN'T MAKE IT TO RESYK — SOME STUDE PROTEST.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HER ON THE BELT?
THEY SAY IT HELPS SOMETIMES —
WHAT..?
— TO KNOW OUR DEAR ONES ARE BEING PUT TO GOOD USE IN DEATH, AS THEY NEVER COULD IN LIFE...
OH.. SURE...
LIFE SHE EES SAD, EH, BENNY?
WHAT YOU GONNA DO NOW?
I'VE BEEN HAVING SOME SUCCESS WITH MY MUSIC.
AH YES SI! WE HEAR! YOU GONNA BE THE BEEG STAR, EH? MRS BEENY'S LEETLE BOY GONNA MAKE EET BEEG.
YOUR MOMMA, SHE BE PROUD OF YOU.
ME, I NO' HAPPY HERE EES NO WHAT I THEENK.
"HEY, YOU, PICK OP THAT PAPER— HEY, YOU, STOP STANDING THERE— HEY, YOU, OP AGAINST THE WALL!"
NO DO ANYTHING —NO WORK— TAKE ONE STEP OUT OF LINE AN' BANG! YOU DEAD!
I WEESH WE NEVER COME. EES NO THE GREAT DREAM PLACE — EES NO AMERICA NO MORE.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER, BENNY. SHE NO COME HOME NO MORE — SHE EEN BEEG WITH THESE DEMOCRATS AN' THAT DOOD GUY—!
NO GOOD GONNA COME OF EET, BOT WHAT CAN YOU DO? AMERICA, SHE GONNA DO WHAT SHE LIKE, WHATEVER YOU SAY...
YES...

I WROTE TO HER THAT NIGHT. I STILL HAVE THE LETTER. SHE'D KEPT IT
THE NEXT TIME I SAW AMERICA SHE WOULD HAVE THE BLOOD OF FOUR JUDGES ON HER HANDS.

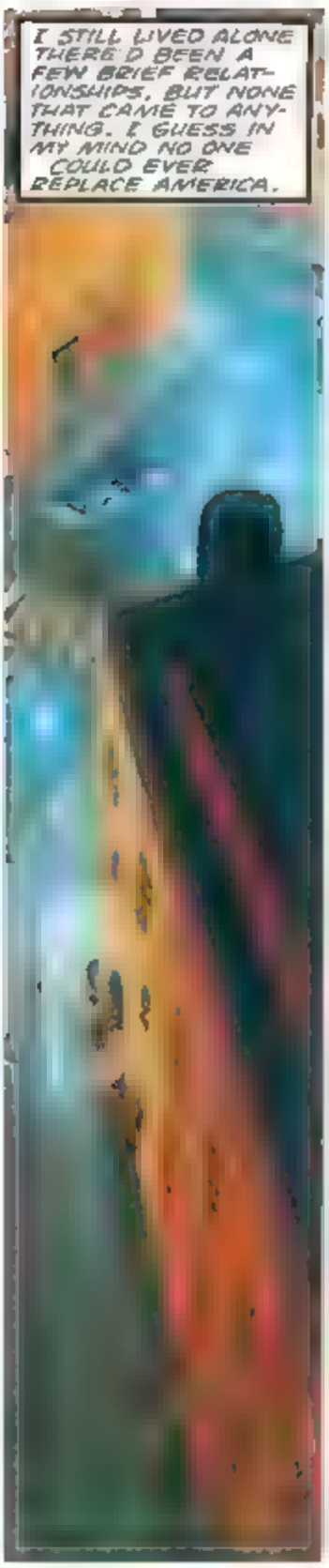

THE WAR CAME.
I WAS IN MEGA-CITY TWO WHEN IT STARTED. I SAT IT OUT THERE.

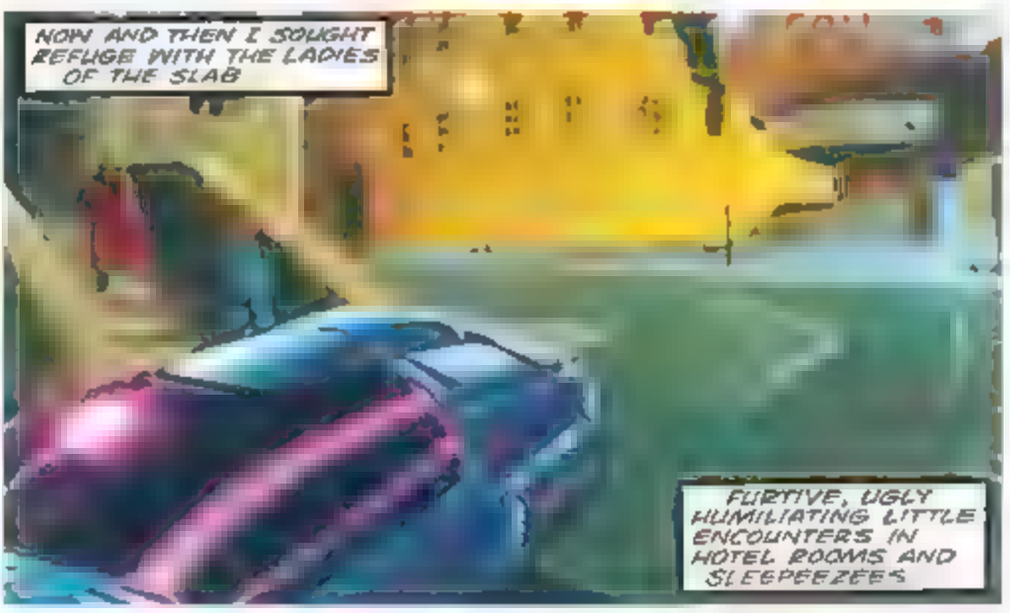

WHEN IT WAS OVER I LOOKED FOR AMI AT WEST SECTOR U
A STUDENT UNIT
NO RECORDS REMAINED
OLD FRED NIETZSCHE HAD MADE IT THROUGH
THE JARAS — THEY USED TO LIVE NEXT DOOR...
THEY HAD A DAUGHTER — AMERICA
I DON' REMEMBER NO AMERICA BUT I REMEMBER THE GUY, ALL RIGHT KILLED HISSELF — WENT MAD WIT A STANLEY LASER GOT HIS WIFE AN A FEW A THE NEIGHBOURS THEN TRIED TO GIVE HISSELF A APPENDICKAMY
GOT ME AS WELL.
COURSE, I DIDN'T CARE. I WAS PRETTY CRAZY TOO — BLOCK MANIA
I'M STILL A LITTLE LOOPY
HEY—AIN'T YOU BENNETT BEENY? YOU USED TA LIVE HERE, DINCHA?
YEAH, I SEEN YOU ONNA VID THE OTHER NIGHT. I THOUGHT YOU WUZ CRAP BUT THE DOG LIKED YA
HEY, HOW ABOUT YOUR AUTOGRAPH, MAN?
HEY, C'MON! I GOT MY OWN STANLEY! YOU CAN PUT IT RIGHT THERE!
AMI'S NAME DIDN'T APPEAR ON ANY DP LIST, AND AFTER THAT I STOPPED LOOKING. IN A WAY I SUPPOSE I WAS GLAD NOT TO FIND HER. IT WOULD ONLY HAVE BROUGHT BACK ALL THE HURT AND THE PAIN
SO I HOPED THAT SHE WAS ALIVE, AND I WISHED HER WELL. AND NOT A DAY PASSED WHEN I DIDN'T THINK OF HER

I'D HAD A COUPLE OF BIG BREAKS WITH MY CAREER ONE OF THE MAJOR AGENCIES LIKED MY VOICE AND STARTED USING ME ON JINGLES.
TALK OF THE EGG
BEENY
YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD SOME OF THEM—I WAS KAPTAIN KLUCK ON THE MOCK-COD AD, AND I SANG THE GOOLIE SONG.
JEBALDO SAYS FIVE MINUTES.
RANDY SEER-SUCKER HEARD ONE OF MY COMEDY NUMBERS ON A DEMO SLUG AND GAVE ME A SPOT ON TONY TUBBS SHOW THEY LIKED ME MY FEEDBACH RATING WAS 79 A PHENOMENAL 85 AMONG WOMEN IN THE 35-54 GROUP.
IT SEEMS I AROUSED SOME MOTHERING INSTINCT
AFTER THAT I WAS MADE MONEY STARTED POURING IN, I BOUGHT A BIG NIMBY UNIT ON THE RIDLEY ESTATE
LECTRIC WALLS TO KEEP OUT JOE CIT, DROID SERVANTS, MY OWN ANTI-GRAV POOL — A REAL GARDEN, FOR GRUD'S SAKE.
I WONDERED WHAT AMERICA WOULD SAY IF SHE COULD SEE ME NOW. MRS BEENY'S BOY—LIVING LIKE A SULTAN
I'D BEEN RIGHT. YOU COULD PLAY IT BY THEIR RULES AND HAVE A GOOD LIFE

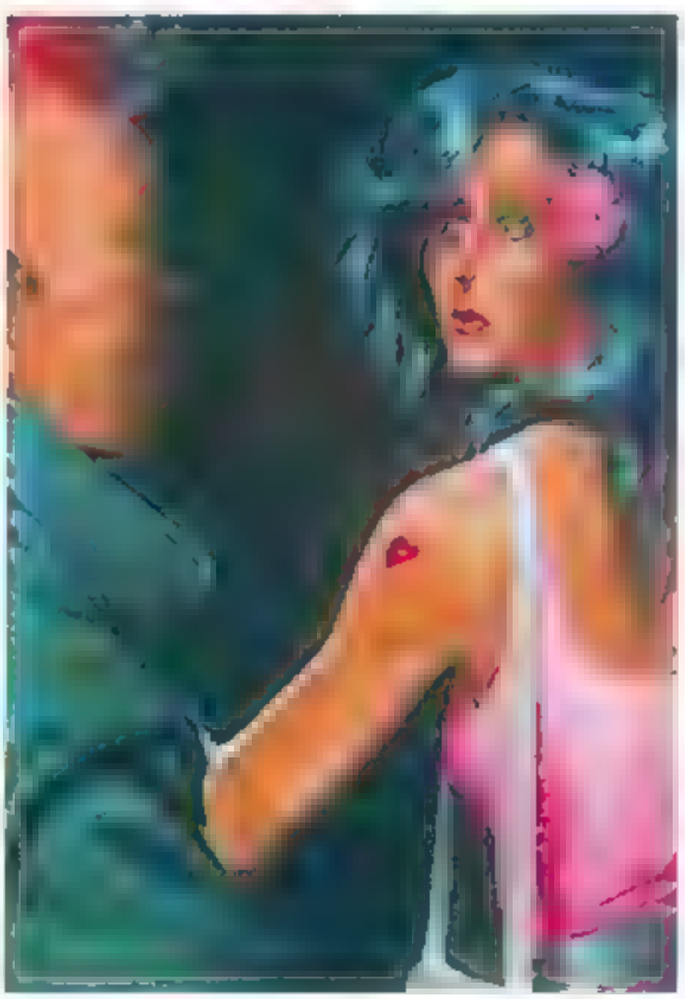
WHEN THE BIG DEMOCRATIC MARCH HAPPENED I LOOKED FOR HER. IT WAS HOPELESS, OF COURSE — ONE FACE AMONG SIXTEEN MILLION

I PRAYED THAT SHE WASN'T ON IT

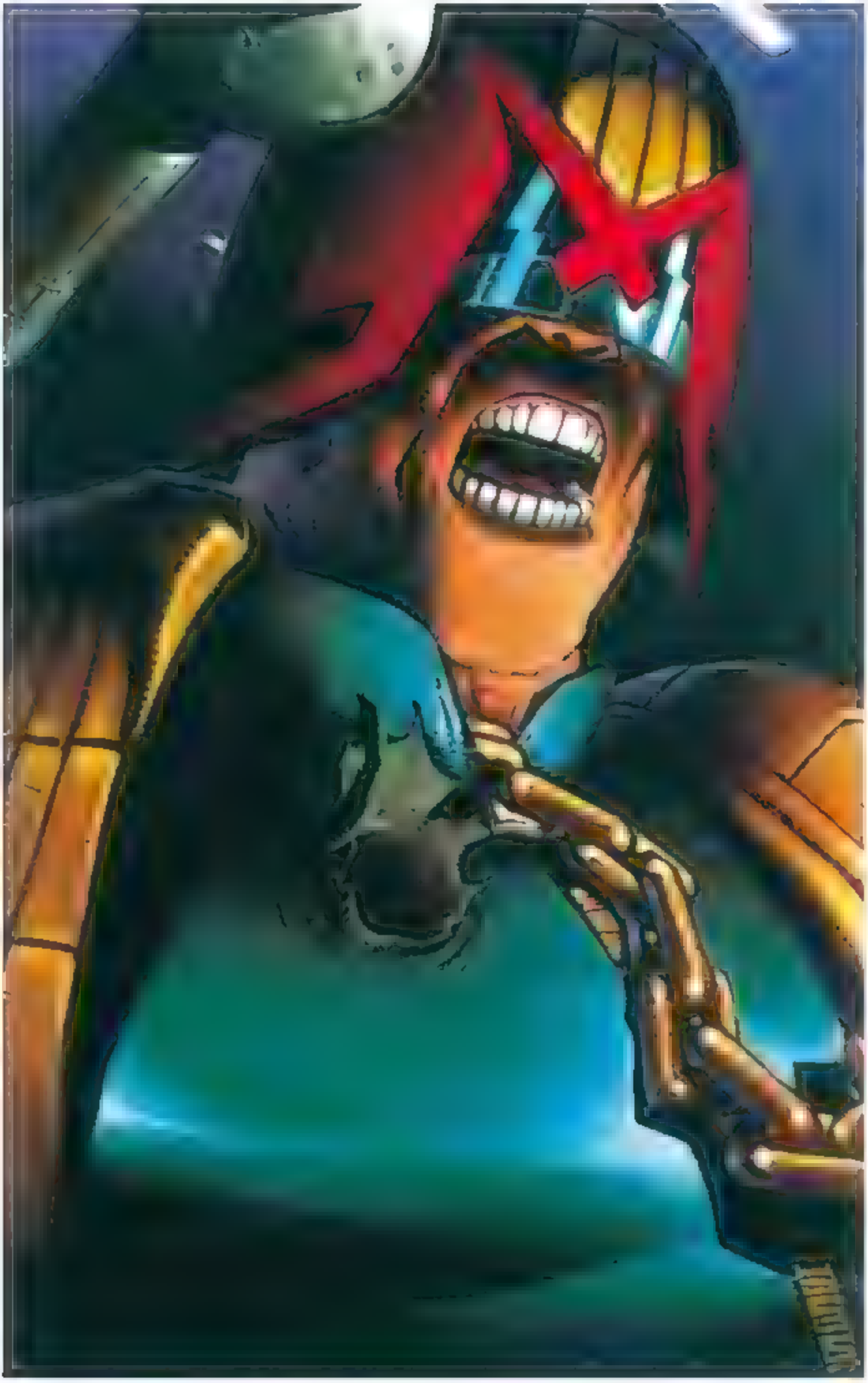

I STILL LIVED ALONE THERE'D BEEN A FEW BRIEF RELATIONSHIPS, BUT NONE THAT CAME TO ANYTHING. I GUESS IN MY MIND NO ONE COULD EVER REPLACE AMERICA.


NOW AND THEN I SOUGHT REFUGE WITH THE LADIES OF THE SLAB
FURTIVE, UGLY HUMILIATING LITTLE ENCOUNTERS IN HOTEL ROOMS AND SLEEPEEZEES

THAT'S WHERE I FOUND HER



AMI!
WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU--?
DON'T ASK, BENNY. PLEASE— JUST GO.
GEUD! THAT YOU'VE SUNK TO TH'S! COULDN'T YOU HAVE COME TO ME AMI?
BENNY WILL YOU GET OUT OF HERE—!
AMI—?
WHAT THE HELL IS ?
SOMETHING WRONG HERE..
JUDGES ?
SET UP!
AMI—
NO!



AAAA
AAAA
CON..TROL...
WE GOTTA —
HUUNNNN —
GOTTA
BASTARD!

JESUS, AMI! WH WHAT'VE YOU DONE—?
POD'S HERE!
LET'S MOVE!
YOU KNOW THIS GEEK?
HE'S OKAY, KURO—
KURO— NO!
HE'S SEEN YOU! YOU KNOW THE RULES!
HEY L-LISTEN..

DAMN YOU! DAMN YOU!!
SHUT UP! GET IN!

GO!

CONTROL RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE BOOTH OVER THERE SHORTLY BEFORE THE INCIDENT. CALLER REPORTED A SLABWALKER SOLIC TING. OLIVER AND CRUZ WERE DISPATCHED.
INTO AN AMBUSH...
GET ANYTHING ON THE CALLER?

HE WAS USING A SCRAMBLER. WE CAN GET AN APPROXIMATION — MALE PROBABLY FAIRLY YOUNG — BUT NOTHING WE CAN RUN AGAINST VPs ON FILE.
WE ESTIMATE FOUR GUNS — THREE FAST ACTION LAS-BLASTERS PROBABLY 9-70s — ONE SPITGUN, STANDARD LOAD.
THE BULLETS MATCH THE ONES IN THE BRIXELAND STREET KILLINGS
AND THIS WAS PINNED TO OLIVER'S BODY?
WITH HIS BOOTKNIFE.

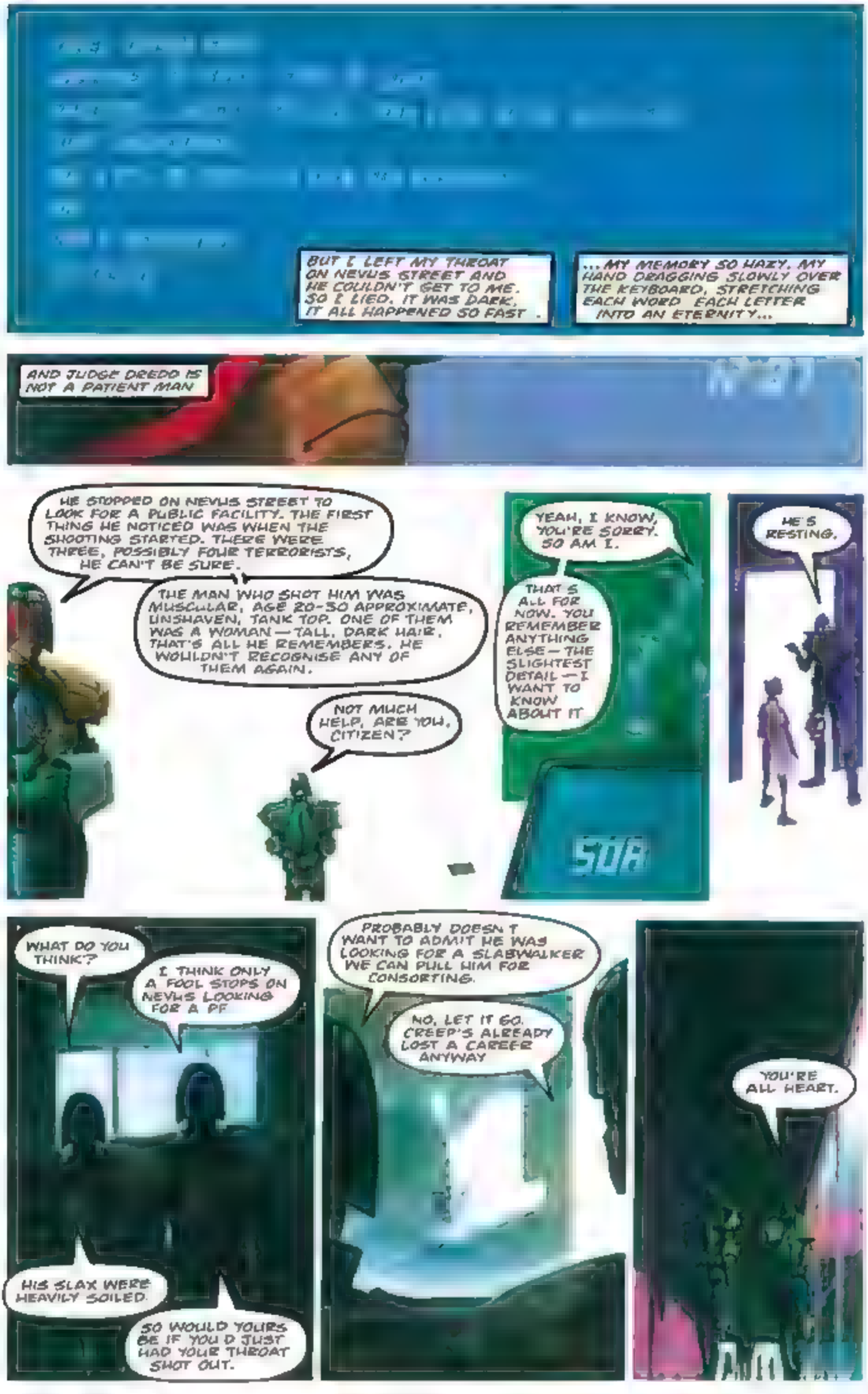
TOTAL WAR

THAT REALLY BENNETT BEENY?
WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE? THE SLABWALKER?
COULD BE. CAN'T SEE HIM TIED IN WITH THIS TOTAL WAR BUNCH, THAT'S FOR SURE...
THAT'S HIS POD PARKED UP THE STREET.
YOU EVER HEAR HIM?
I KNOW THE NAME JUST ANOTHER CREEP
HE WAS ACTUALLY QUITE GOOD. FUNNY NICE VOICE TOO.
WHERE DO YOU GET TIME FOR MUSICAL APPREC'IATION PENDER? CONTROL NOT WORK:NG YOU HARD ENOUGH?
HOW S ,T LOOK ?
TOUCH AND GO
IF HE DOES MAKE IT HE WON'T BE SINGING AGAIN.
" THEY SHOT HIS THROAT OUT "
DO YOUR BEST CHANCES ARE HE STUMBLED UPON THE AMBUSH WITNESSED EVERYTHING THAT'S WHY THEY SHOT HIM
KEEP ME INFORMED, PENDER. I WANT THESE CREEPS.
I'LL GIVE 'EM TOTAL WAR!

THE CITY'S JUMPING. CRIME RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL
SAME OLD SONG.
NO TIME TO STOP. NO TIME TO THINK—
BREAK 'EM UP!
RUN 'EM IN!
TAKE 'EM OUT!
BLOW 'EM DOWN!
BAG 'EM UP!
CART 'EM OFF!
JUSTICE.
SET IT TO THE TUNE OF "RAWHIDE."
THAT'S THE SONG OF THE JUDGES
TUNE IN— OR DROP OUT

JUST TELL US WHAT YOU SAW CITIZEN.
TAP TAP
CAN'T REMEMBER
THEY GOT YOU IN THE THROAT, NOT THE BRAIN. THINK! YOU MUST REMEMBER!
PLEASE. HE'S STILL VERY WEAK.
AND FOUR JUDGES ARE VERY DEAD.
HE NEEDS REST. PERHAPS IN A FEW DAYS.
I'LL DECIDE WHEN HE NEEDS REST!
WHAT AM I ARGUING WITH A ROBOT FOR? GET IT OUTTA HERE, PENDER!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, BEENY... YOU DON'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED WITH ALL THESE QUESTIONS..
BUT THERE'S A GANG OF PSYCHOPATHS OUT THERE WHO SEEM TO THINK IT'S THEIR GRUD-GIVEN RIGHT TO MURDER A JUDGE OR TWO—

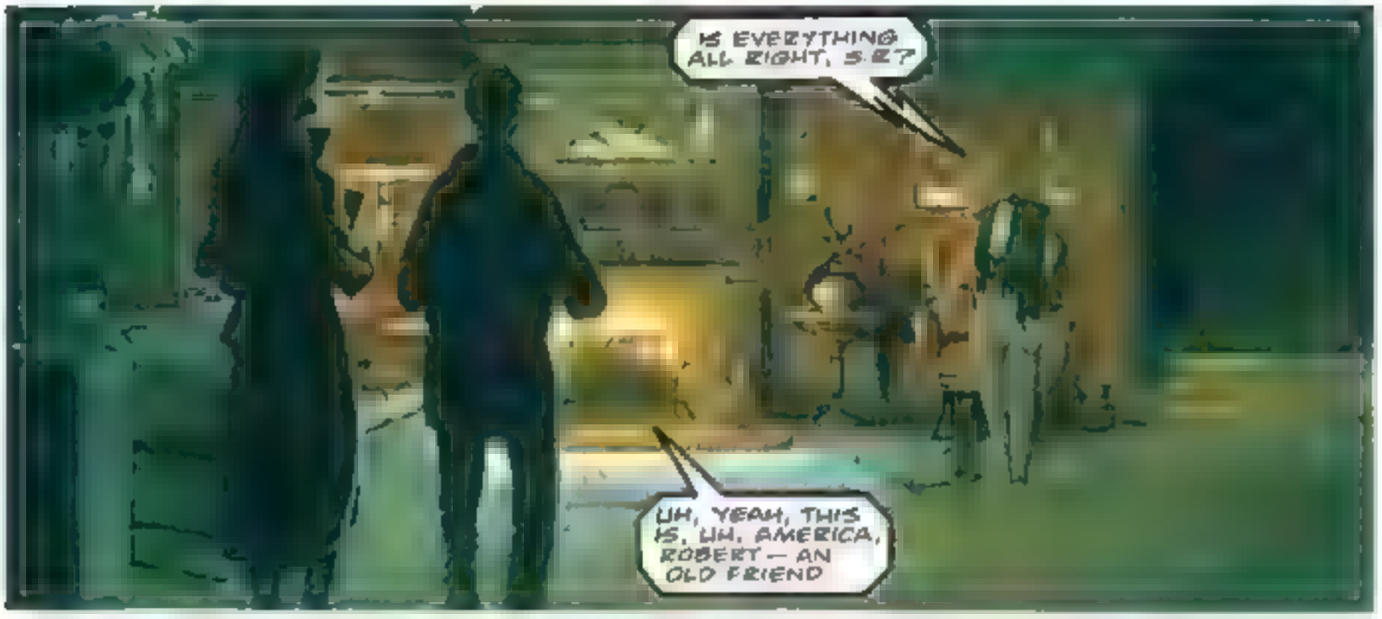
AND IF YOU DON'T START GIVING ME SOME ANSWERS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE IT THAT YOU'RE DELIBERATELY OBSTRUCTING MY INVESTIGATIONS!
YOU WANT TO DO YOUR RECOVERING IN THE CUBES? IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT, BEENY?
THAT'S BETTER
LET'S TAKE IT FROM THE BEGINNING WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON NEVUS STREET?
TAP TAP
I LIED FOR YOU, AMI
HARD TO IMAGINE — ME, SCARED LITTLE BENNY BEENY, LYING TO THE JUDGES..
BUT WHY DID MYSELF? IT WAS NO GREAT ACT OF COURAGE.
IF I COULD HAVE TALKED I WOULDN'T HAVE HELD OUT FOR A MINUTE HE'D HAVE SQUEEZED IT OUT OF ME. HAD ME CRAWLING, THANKING HIM FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF INFORMING ON YOU.
OH, YES. I'M NO HERO WE KNOW THAT ONLY TOO WELL.


BUT I LEFT MY THROAT ON NEVUS STREET AND HE COULDN'T GET TO ME. SO I LIED. IT WAS DARK, IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST.
...MY MEMORY SO HAZY. MY HAND DRAGGING SLOWLY OVER THE KEYBOARD, STRETCHING EACH WORD EACH LETTER INTO AN ETERNITY...
AND JUDGE DREDD IS NOT A PATIENT MAN
HE STOPPED ON NEVUS STREET TO LOOK FOR A PUBLIC FACILITY. THE FIRST THING HE NOTICED WAS WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTED. THERE WERE THREE, POSSIBLY FOUR TERRORISTS, HE CAN'T BE SURE.
THE MAN WHO SHOT HIM WAS MUSCULAR, AGE 20-30 APPROXIMATE, UNSHAVEN, TANK TOP. ONE OF THEM WAS A WOMAN — TALL, DARK HAIR. THAT'S ALL HE REMEMBERS. HE WOULDN'T RECOGNISE ANY OF THEM AGAIN.
NOT MUCH HELP, ARE YOU, CITIZEN?
YEAH, I KNOW, YOU'RE SORRY. SO AM I.
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE — THE SLIGHTEST DETAIL — I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT
SDA
HE'S RESTING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK ONLY A FOOL STOPS ON NEVUS LOOKING FOR A PF
HIS SLAX WERE HEAVILY SOILED.
SO WOULD YOURS BE IF YOU'D JUST HAD YOUR THROAT SHOT OUT.
PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT HE WAS LOOKING FOR A SLABWALKER WE CAN PULL HIM FOR CONSORTING.
NO, LET IT GO. CREEP'S ALREADY LOST A CAREER ANYWAY
YOU'RE ALL HEART.

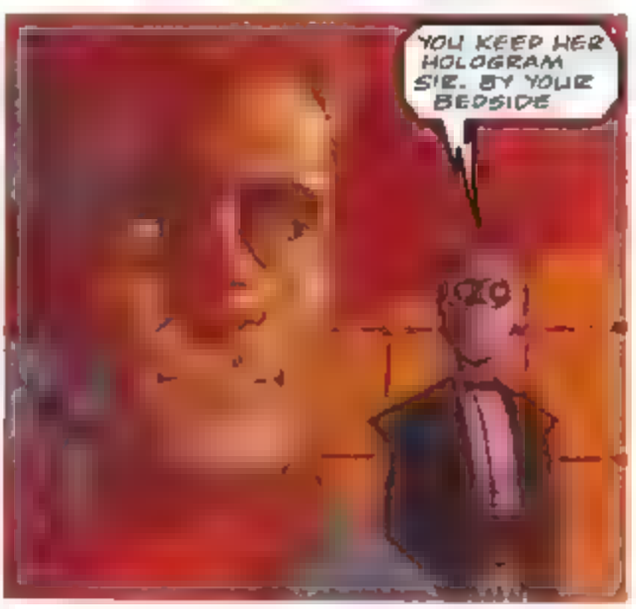
STOP
DELIVERY FOR BEENY.
FIRST RIGHT— THE BIG PLACE ON THE HILL.

BING BONG!
I'LL GET IT.
HELLO BENNY.

CAN I COME IN?
UH ..UH .. SURE! YEAH!
DON'T WORRY, I WASN'T FOLLOWED.
THEY COULD BE WATCHING THE HOUSE—
NOBODY WAS WATCHING. TAKE MY WORD. I'M GOOD AT THESE THINGS
OH, BENNY... I'M SO SORRY..
I COULD HAVE KILLED KURD FOR WHAT HE DID!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY
THEY'RE GOING TO FIX ME UP WITH AN IMPLANT— PROGRAMMED WITH MY OWN VOICE.
IT'LL NEVER BE QUITE THE SAME, BUT. .


IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, SIR?
UH, YEAH, THIS IS, UH, AMERICA, ROBERT — AN OLD FRIEND

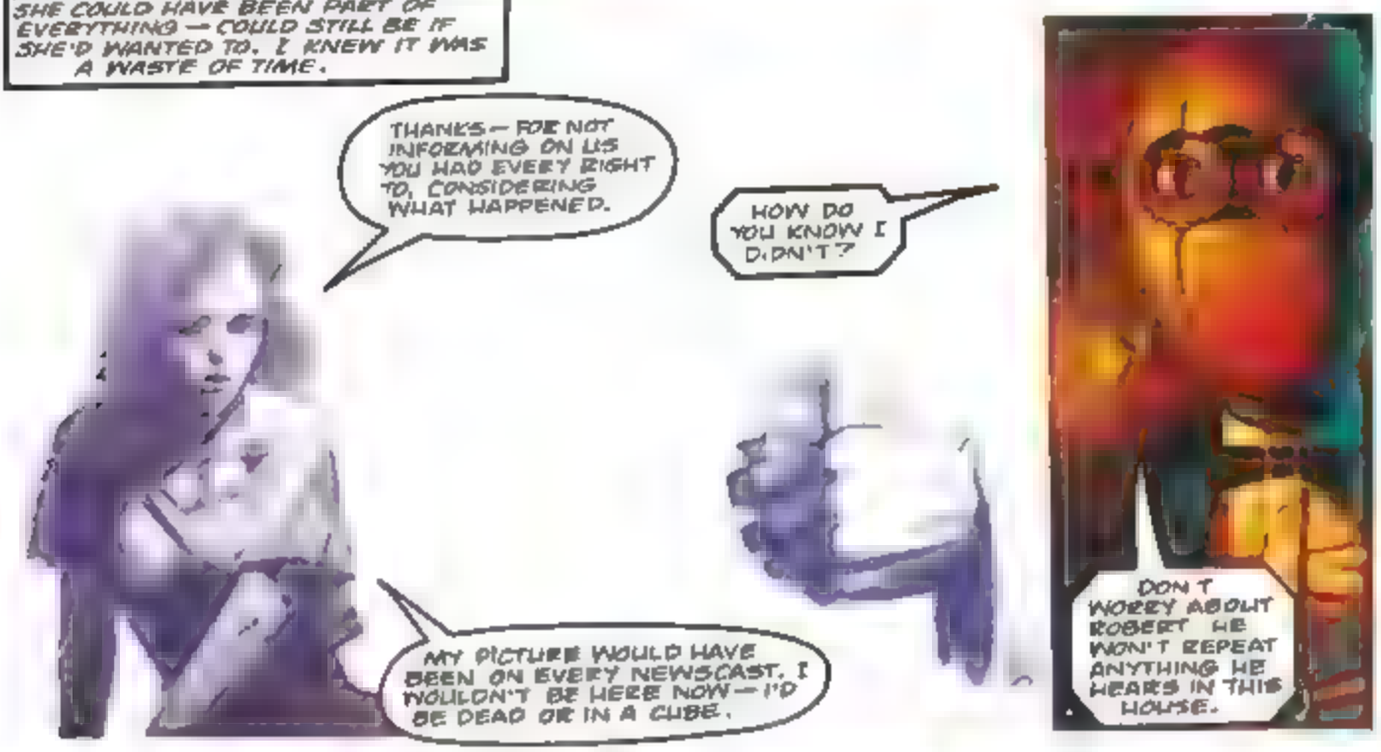
YES, I RECOGNISE THE YOUNG LADY NOW, SIR.
YOU RECOGNISE HER?


YOU KEEP HER HOLOGRAM SIR. BY YOUR BEDSIDE

CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING, MIZ? A DRINK?
THAT WOULD BE NICE.
THOUGH IF YOU'LL PARDON ME SAYING SO, A GOOD SQUARE MEAL MIGHT BE MORE IN ORDER

YOU'VE DONE WELL FOR YOURSELF BENNY.
YES. EVEN IF I NEVER SING AGAIN MY ACCOUNTANT SAYS I CAN LIVE FAIRLY COMFORTABLY OFF ROYALTIES FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I GUESS YOU'VE PROVED YOUR POINT. I'M GLAD FOR YOU.

I REFRAINED FROM TELLING HER THAT SHE COULD HAVE BEEN PART OF EVERYTHING — COULD STILL BE IF SHE'D WANTED TO. I KNEW IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME.


THANKS — FOR NOT INFORMING ON US YOU HAD EVERY RIGHT TO, CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED.
HOW DO YOU KNOW I DIDN'T?
MY PICTURE WOULD HAVE BEEN ON EVERY NEWSCAST. I WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW — I'D BE DEAD OR IN A CUBE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ROBERT. HE WON'T REPEAT ANYTHING HE HEARS IN THIS HOUSE.

WHAT I DID WAS FOR YOU, AMI, NOT FOR THEM. NOT FOR TOTAL WAR, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELVES.
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS WRONG. KILLING JUDGES — HOW MANY NOW, SIX? — IT'S MURDER, AMI.
NO MATTER HOW YOU DRESS IT UP IT'S MURDER
I KNOW..
THEN WHY?
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY, BENNY.
PLEASE, I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT NOW.. MAYBE LATER.
I'M JUST SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU. LET'S NOT SPOIL THINGS

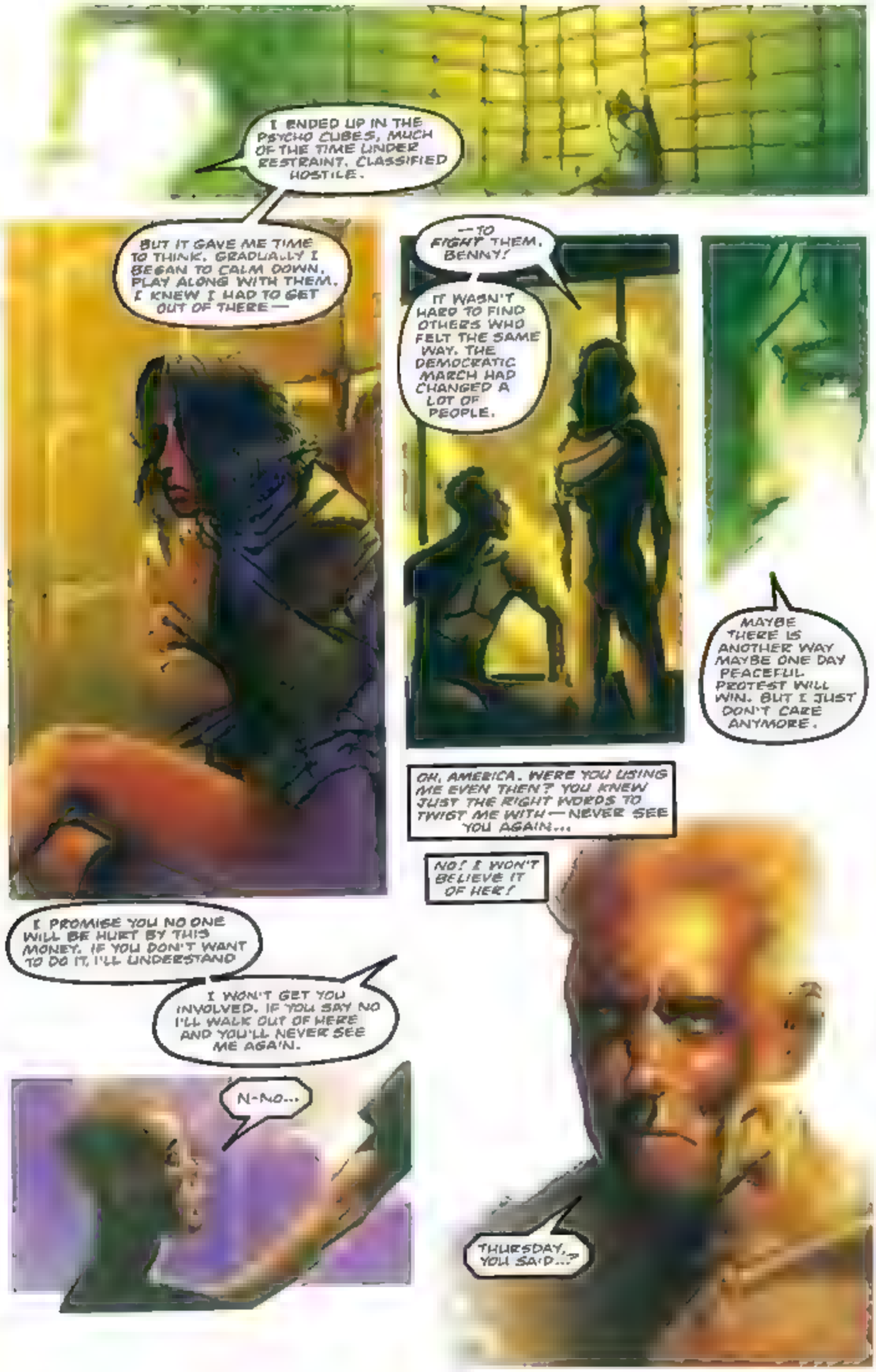
SHE ATE LIKE SHE HADN'T SEEN REAL FOOD FOR A WEEK. SHE HADN'T BEEN LOOKING AFTER HERSELF.
SHE'D BEEN LIVING ROUGH, MOVING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE — SYMPATHISERS — NEVER STAYING TOO LONG IN ONE PLACE.
OHHHHHH.. STUFFED!
'MEMBER THAT TIME WE GOT HOLD OF MOM'S TAFFEE MIX'?
DO I? YOU HAD GUNK ALL UP YOUR NOSE AND IN YOUR HAIR. YOUR TUMMY WAS SO TIGHT YOU COULD HARDLY STAND!
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS UP BEING SICK ALL NIGHT!
WE TALKED LONG INTO THE NIGHT FOR A FEW HOURS IT WAS JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, AS IF THE REAL WORLD HAD NEVER INTRUDED ON OUR LIVES.
BUT IN THE END THERE WAS NO KEEPING IT OUT.
THE JUDGES WILL GET YOU YOU KNOW THAT. DON'T YOU? THEY ALWAYS DO.
YES.
WHY DON'T YOU STOP?
I CAN'T.
OF COURSE YOU CAN. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IDENTIFIED. JUST QUIT — WALK AWAY I'LL HELP YOU.
I'VE GOT EVERYTHING WE COULD EVER NEED HERE. LIVE WITH ME. WE COULD BE HAPPY TOGETHER. I KNOW IT.
DAMN! I PROMISED MYSELF I WASN'T GOING TO SAY THAT..
OH, HELL AMI, YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU

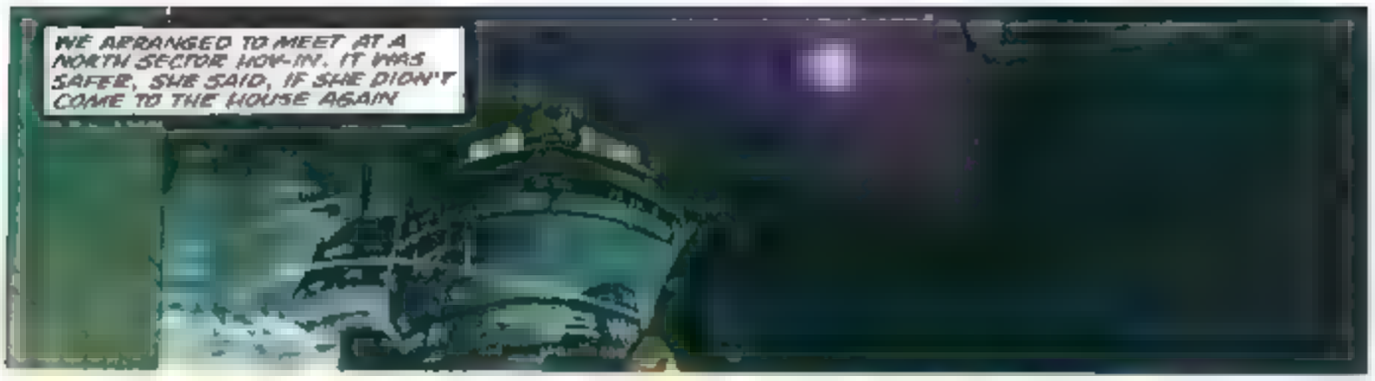
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TEMPTING IT IS...
I'M TIRED.. TIRED OF RUNNING TIRED OF HIDING BUT THERE'S NO WAY BACK NOW.
THEY HURT ME, BENNY I CAN'T STOP HATING THEM
WE'LL TALK MORE ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING. I'LL HAVE ROBERT MAKE YOU UP A BED.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW. IT'S AFTER THREE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, DUMMY.
YOU M-MEAN—?
COME ON.
I ..I CAN'T
NOT LIKE THIS.
DON'T BE SILLY.
GEUD YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED HAVE YOU?
YOU BE A REALLY NICE GUY, BENNY BUT YOU'RE SUCH A JERK.

IN THE MORNING SHE SHOWED ME MY LETTER...
I ALWAYS KEPT IT EVEN IN THE DARKEST DAYS IT MEANT SOMETHING —TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE CARED...
I NEED YOUR HELP NOW.
SURE. ANYTHING. LIKE I SAID LAST NIGHT— JUST NAME IT.
A HUNDRED THOUSAND CREDS. IT HAS TO BE IN UNTRACEABLE CREDIT TRANSFER NOTES, DENOMINATIONS OF A THOUSAND. I NEED IT BY THURSDAY.
WH-WHAT FOR?
BETTER THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.
THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING SHE COULD HAVE WANTED THAT MONEY FOR...TOTAL WAR
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT! GRUD! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
THAT'S A HORRIBLE THING TO SAY!
WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT HAPPENED BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, BENNY—NO OTHER REASON. IF YOU THINK DIFFERENT THEN YOU DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL.
THAT'S THE TROUBLE, I DON'T KNOW YOU. I DON'T THINK I KNOW YOU AT ALL ANYMORE.
THEN MAYBE WE'D BETTER GET RE-ACQUAINTED...

SHE TOLD ME SHE'D BEEN ON THE BIG DEMOCRATIC MARCH HER AND DOOD. SHE WAS FOUR MONTHS PREGNANT.
THEY WERE SIXTEEN MILLION STRONG, MARCHING ON THE GRAND MALL—A HUGE TIDAL WAVE OF PEACEFUL PROTEST THEY FELT NOTHING COULD STOP THEM
THEN THE STONE THROWING STARTED... JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AGITATORS, PLANTED IN THE MARCH
COME ON HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
I KNOW. IT'S THE WAY THEY WORK.
IT GAVE THE JUDGES ALL THE EXCUSE THEY NEEDED--
NO VIOLENCE! NO VIOLENCE!
DOOD!
LEAVE HIM ALONE—!

DOOD DIED ON THE WAY TO HOSPITAL— BRAIN HAEMORRHAGE I NEARLY LOST THE BABY.
I WAS SENT TO A REHAB UNIT FOR "RE-EDUCATION" AS THEY CALLED IT.
HE WAS A LITTLE BOY YOU KNOW...WE WERE GOING TO CALL HIM TONY AFTER MY DAD.
GENETIC ABNORMALITY, I'M AFRAID ROUTINE AMNIOCENTESIS PICKED IT UP.
I'D BEEN IN REHAB TWO MONTHS WHEN THEY CAME FOR HIM...
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. IT HAPPENS.
JUST COME WITH US.
WHAT—? N-NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
NOT MY BABY—!
I... DIDN'T KNOW. I'M SORRY..
THEY DID IT DELIBERATELY!
SURELY NOT—
OH YES! YOU DON'T KNOW THEM!
AND EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T WHAT *RIGHT* HAVE THEY GOT TO MURDER MY BABY? WHAT RIGHT HAVE THEY GOT TO DECIDE WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES."


I ENDED UP IN THE PSYCHO CUBES, MUCH OF THE TIME UNDER RESTRAINT. CLASSIFIED HOSTILE.
BUT IT GAVE ME TIME TO THINK. GRADUALLY I BEGAN TO CALM DOWN. PLAY ALONG WITH THEM. I KNEW I HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE—
—TO FIGHT THEM, BENNY!
IT WASN'T HARD TO FIND OTHERS WHO FELT THE SAME WAY. THE DEMOCRATIC MARCH HAD CHANGED A LOT OF PEOPLE.
MAYBE THERE IS ANOTHER WAY MAYBE ONE DAY PEACEFUL PROTEST WILL WIN. BUT I JUST DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
OH, AMERICA. WERE YOU USING ME EVEN THEN? YOU KNEW JUST THE RIGHT WORDS TO TWIST ME WITH—NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN...
NO! I WON'T BELIEVE IT OF HER!
I PROMISE YOU NO ONE WILL BE HURT BY THIS MONEY. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT, I'LL UNDERSTAND
I WON'T GET YOU INVOLVED. IF YOU SAY NO I'LL WALK OUT OF HERE AND YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGA'N.
N-NO...
THURSDAY, YOU SA'D...?


WE ARRANGED TO MEET AT A NORTH SECTOR HOT-IN. IT WAS SAFER, SHE SAID, IF SHE DIDN'T COME TO THE HOUSE AGAIN

DIER

WE SAT FOR A WHILE, GENTLY SWINGING WATCHING THE ACTORS MOUTH THEIR SOUNDLESS WORDS. SHE HELD MY HAND. I FELT A STRANGE SENSE OF CONTENTMENT.

IF ONLY IT COULD HAVE STAYED LIKE THAT - IF WE COULD HAVE WALKED AWAY, TOGETHER, TURNED OUR BACKS ON THE TRAGEDY THAT HAD BEEN SO CAREFULLY LAID OUT BEFORE US
BUT LIFE DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY
DID YOU BRING THE MONEY?

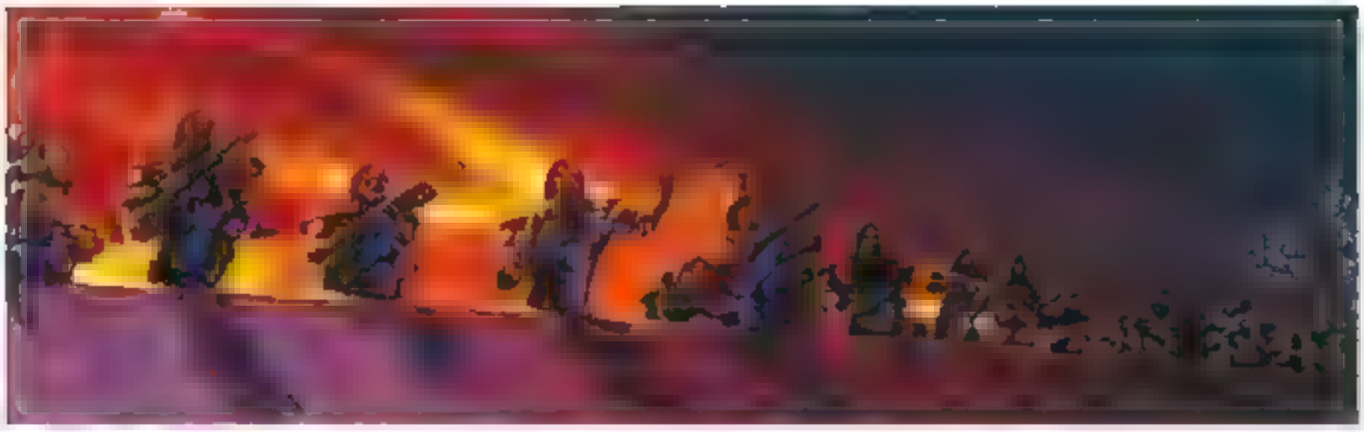
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THIS?
I TOLD YOU BETTER YOU DON'T KNOW
I'VE GOT TO KNOW, AMI I... HAVE TO BE SURE NO ONE'S GOING TO BE HURT. I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU UNLESS YOU TELL ME

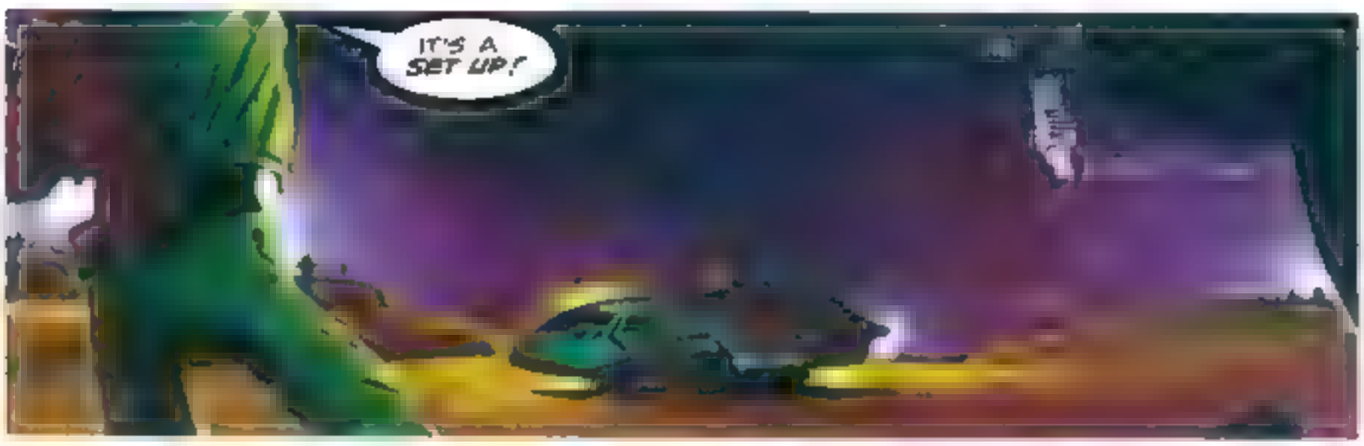
IT'S TO BUY EXPLOSIVES
WE'RE GOING TO BLOW UP THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.
JEEEEZ...!
I.. I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL FOR LIBERTY...
THERE'S NO LIBERTY, NOT HERE. THE STATUE'S A SICK JOKE.
WE'RE JUST MAKING A POINT. HEADLINES — THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, ISN'T IT? SOONER OR LATER THE MESSAGE WILL GET THROUGH
I WORMED IT ALL OUT OF HER — DATE, TIME AND M.O. THERE'D BE TWO HOVER PODS, ONE PACKED WITH EXPLOSIVE ON A TWENTY MINUTE SWITCH, TO GIVE THEM TIME TO GET CLEAR AND GIVE A WARNING
THANK YOU
AMERICA WOULD BE DRIVING THE ESCAPE POD.
AFTERWARDS... YOU'LL GIVE THIS UP, WON'T YOU?
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT, BENNY.
BUT I KNEW SHE WOULDN'T
NO JYES OVER 12
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU AGAIN AMI...
EXIT
SHE JUST LOOKED AT ME — AS IF SHE KNEW

OBSERVATION UNITS REPORT SUSPICIOUS POD HOVERING APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF KAY SOUTH. POD REGISTERED TO ONE BEENY, BENNETT.
YOU WANT A PICK UP?
NEGATIVE LET HIM WATCH

HE EARNED IT

SIGHTING! ONE KAY WEST OVER DEETER SKED AND CLOSING!
ROJ. WE HAVE THEM ON VISUAL.
DISRUPTERS
CHECK!
WE'RE LOSING POWER--!
KURD'S GOING DOWN TOO! SOMETHING'S UP!
SWEET MOTHER--!




IT'S A SET UP!

THAT DAMNED FRIEND OF YOURS!
BENNY? NO! BENNY WOULDN'T DO THAT!

NO CONTEST! NO CONTEST!

FIRE AT WILL.

CEASE FIRING!
AMI!

YOU RE ON
YOU'LL KNOCK EM DEAD, KID!
SORRY.. ME AN' MY BIG MOUTH
BE GOOD.
YES. I REMEMBER AMERICA

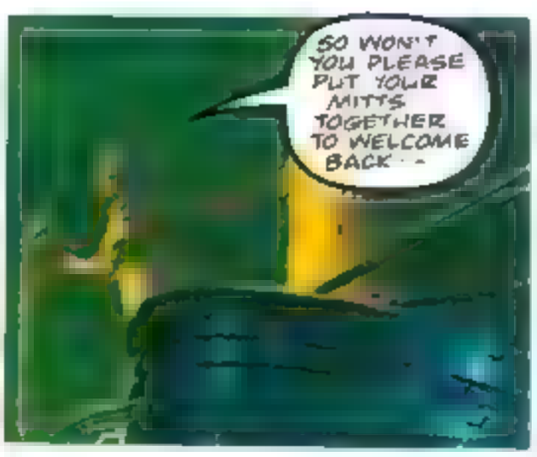
STRUGGLING TO RISE —
— TAKING THOSE LAST, FALTERING STEPS ACROSS THE CONCOURSE
I SAID CEASE FIRE!
THAT JUDGE ON REPORT!

AMI!
LEAVE HIM!
IT'S OUR INFORMER
OH, JESUS, AMI, DON'T DIE! PLEASE, DON'T DIE!
MEDIC! GET A MEDIC!
I'M SO SORRY! I HAD TO TELL THEM! I-IF I'D JUST GIVEN YOU THE MONEY I'D HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MURDER— TERRORISM! I-I COULDN'T DO IT, AMI —!
START ROUNDING UP SYMPATHISERS— THE WHOLE RING
WHAT ABOUT BEENY? HE'S GUILTY OF CONCEALING EVIDENCE
HE'S BEEN VERY CO-OPERATIVE WE'LL LET THIS ONE GO.
IT- IT WAS FOR THE BEST, AMI! HE SAID YOU WOULDN'T BE HURT— JUST THE OTHERS!
MEDIC!

YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T HURT HER!
SPARE YOUR TEARS FOR SOMEONE WHO DESERVES THEM, BEENY. SHE WAS A JUDGE KILLER
BUT YOU FOLLOWED HER FROM THE HOV 'N! YOU KNEW THEM ALL! YOU COULD HAVE PICKED THEM UP ANY TIME! WHY THIS?
A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION— TO ENCOURAGE THE OTHERS
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN SHOW BUSINESS.
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!

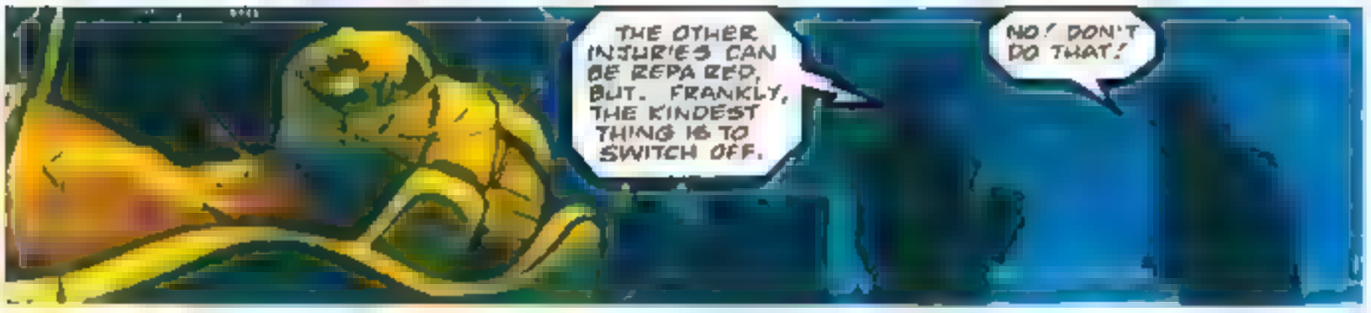
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THOSE OF YOU WITH MEMORIES STRETCHING BACK OVER A YEAR —
OKAY, I REALISE IT AIN'T MANY, BUT THERE MUST BE A FEW IN TONIGHT!

SOME OF YOU DIMWITS MAY VAGUELY REMEMBER THE TRAGIC SHOOTING THAT STRUCK DOWN ONE OF THIS CITY'S WITTIEST, WACKIEST TALENTS
THAT NIGHT THEY SAID HE WOULD NEVER SING AGAIN. WE AT JERALDO'S TALK OF THE MEB ARE PROUD THAT HE IS HERE TONIGHT TO PROVE THEM WRONG —
— MAYBE A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU REMEMBER, BUT STILL EVERY INCH A STAR


SO WON'T YOU PLEASE PUT YOUR MITTS TOGETHER TO WELCOME BACK —

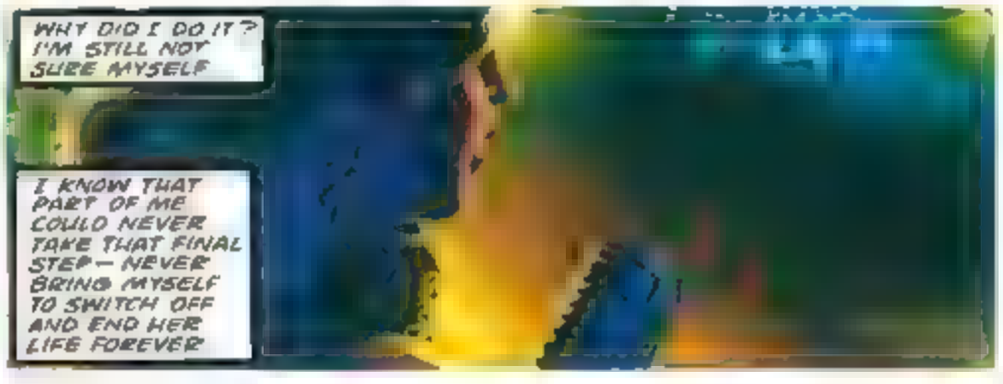
BENNNETTTT BEENY!

JEEEZ, IT'S TRUE! FULL-BODY TRANSPLANT!
BUT CAN SHE SING?
A LUMP OF THE GETAWAY VEHICLE WAS LODGED IN AMI'S SKULL. SHE WAS DECLARED BRAIN DEAD BEFORE SHE REACHED HOSPITAL.
WE NEED TO KNOW NEXT OF KIN.
NOBODY. THERE'S NOBODY. ONLY ME.
AND YOU ARE?
I WAS HER FRIEND.
AND THE WORD STUCK IN MY THROAT


THE OTHER INJURIES CAN BE REPAIRED, BUT. FRANKLY, THE KINDEST THING IS TO SWITCH OFF.
NO! DON'T DO THAT!

I HAD AMI MADE OVER TO MY CUSTODY. WHEN YOU'RE RICH ENOUGH, ALMOST ANYTHING CAN BE ARRANGED.
I KEPT HER ON LIFE SUPPORT FOR THREE MONTHS BEFORE I MADE THE DECISION

MUSCLE CO-ORDINATION IS STILL TRICKY AND MY FINGERS ARE TOO CLUMSY TO MANAGE THE GITTER, BUT I'M SLOWLY GETTING USED TO IT


WHY DID I DO IT? I'M STILL NOT SURE MYSELF
I KNOW THAT PART OF ME COULD NEVER TAKE THAT FINAL STEP— NEVER BRING MYSELF TO SWITCH OFF AND END HER LIFE FOREVER

I'M NOT HERE TO SING ANY FUNNY LITTLE NUMBERS
YOU CAN LAUGH ABOUT THINGS FOR ONLY SO LONG

AND I KNOW THAT I DID IT TO PUNISH MYSELF. BECAUSE NOT A DAY PASSES WHEN I DON'T SEE HER FACE IN THE MIRROR AND REMEMBER WHAT I DID
SHE'S ALL AROUND ME, EVERY MOMENT — THE TOUCH, THE SMELL OF HER
I HAD A FRIEND. HER NAME WAS AMERICA
THIS IS HER SONG

BUT I LIKE TO THINK THAT I DID IT FOR AMI, TOO. SO THAT AT LEAST PART OF HER — AT LEAST HER DREAM COULD CARRY ON
BECAUSE SHE WAS RIGHT. YOU CAN'T IGNORE WHAT'S GOING ON. YOU CAN'T BURY YOUR HEAD IN THE SAND AND FORGET WHAT THE JUDGES ARE DOING TO US
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP FIGHTING.
NOW IS THE TIME
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP LOOKING FOR AMERICA

FREEDOM — POWER TO THE PEOPLE — DEMOCRACY... THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM.
DON'T KID YOURSELF.
WE TRIED IT BEFORE. BELIEVE ME. IT DOESN'T WORK. YOU CAN'T TRUST THE PEOPLE
SO DREAM ON, CREEP. BUT JUST REMEMBER — THAT'S ALL IT IS. A DREAM
AMERICA IS DEAD
THIS IS THE REAL WORLD

FADING OF THE LIGHT

Script: John Wagner
Art: Colin MacNeil
Colour: Alan Craddock
Letters: Annie Parkhouse

Originally published in *Judge Dredd Megazine* 3.20-3.25

LET'S TRY ONE MORE DEXTERITY TEST
I FEEL LIKE I'M BACK IN JUVEY SCHOOL
ONE ON TOP OF THE OTHER CONCENTRATE PLEASE BENNETT
CANCELLED
IT'S NO GOOD I CAN'T STOP THE SHAKING

IT'S GETTING WORSE
YES THE LAB RESULTS ARE BACK. THE DETERIORATION IS ACCELERATING QUITE RAPIDLY NOW
WHY DID YOU LEAVE IT SO LONG? IF WE'D OPERATED WHEN THE FIRST SIGNS OF REJECTION SHOWED
I COULDN'T COULDN'T BEAR IT
NOW THE BRAIN WOULD NOT SURVIVE ANOTHER TRANSPLANT
FUNNY ISN'T IT - AMERICA REJECTING ME AGAIN
HOW LONG HAVE I GOT?
SIX MONTHS PERHAPS BUT BY THEN YOU'LL BE A VEGETABLE WITH ANY QUALITY OF LIFE - A FEW WEEKS
YOUR SYMPTOMS -- PROBLEMS OF MUSCLE CO ORDINATION MEMORY LOSS NAUSEA WILL GROW INCREASINGLY SEVERE YOU'LL EXPERIENCE INCONTINENCE FITS BLACKOUTS DIMINISHING PERIODS OF LUCIDITY
I'LL INCREASE THE LEVEL OF YOUR IMMUNO SUPPRESSANTS - THEY'LL ALLEVIATE THE WORST SYMPTOMS FOR A LITTLE WHILE
IT'S NOT A PRETTY SIGHT BENNETT BETTER TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN MOMENT, GO WITH DIGNITY
Fast Effective Painless
Fading of the Light
EUTHANASIUM
FOR THE CHILD'S SAKE
YES

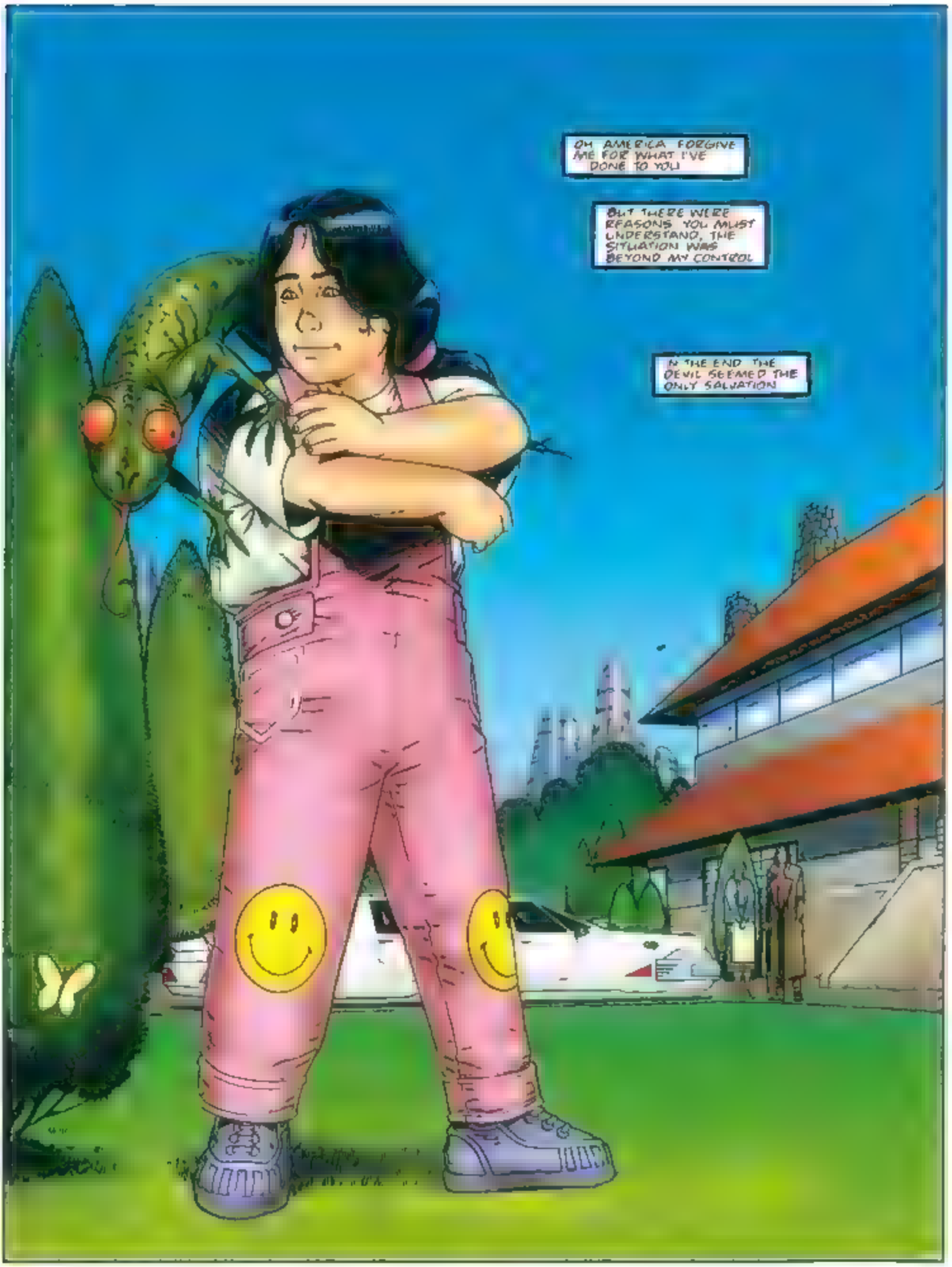
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS AT THE CLINIC BENNETT?
NO COMMENT
MR BEENY ANOTHER DREAM IS HOT TIPPED TO RUN AWAY WITH THIS YEAR'S ARNIE AWARD IS THE SONG VERY PERSONAL TO YOU?
I CAN'T TALK NOW-
BENNY ANY PLANS TO GO BACK TO PERFORMING?
PLEASE
MY LEGS GONE NUMB
GET ME OUT OF HERE
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER
SHAME NICE LOOKING WOMAN
YOU'RE FORGETTING THAT AIN'T NO WOMAN
WAS IT BAD NEWS SIR?
YES
I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT SIR
YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD FRIEND ROBERT THROUGH IT ALL YOU NEVER QUESTIONED YOU NEVER THOUGHT THE LESS OF ME DID YOU?
OH NO SIR YOU MEAN VERY WELL SIR YOU'RE A VERY FINE MAN

I WISH IT WAS TRUE
WHERE SHALL I BEGIN?
NOT AT THE BEGINNING YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT SHAMEFUL STORY CONSPIRACY BETRAYAL DEATH A TRAGEDY IN THREE ACTS
PLAYED OUT OVER ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY SORRY
SO VERY SORRY
BUT I MUST BRIEFLY RETURN TO THOSE EVENTS IT'S IMPORTANT YOU SEE THAT YOU KNOW THE WHOLE STORY
ONLY THEN MIGHT YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHY I'VE DONE THIS UNSPEAKABLE THING — THIS FINAL ACT OF BETRAYAL
WHY I'VE MADE MY CONTRACT WITH THE DEVIL

SO WHAT'S NEW? JUST SPINELESS BENNETT BEENY AT IT AGAIN SPLIG FACE BENNY - BEENY THE BETRAYER WHO WEARS HIS FRIEND LIKE A COAT
WEIRDO
PERVERT
WHAT TWISTED ACT WON'T HE COMMIT?
HE STABBED HER IN THE BACK ONCE WHY NOT AGAIN?
BUT PLEASE HEAR ME OUT IT ISN'T ALWAYS AS IT SEEMS
THERE ARE THINGS I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU
DADDY"
MRS WILSON BOUGHT ME A RAD LIZARD
IT'S BEEN DETOXED SIR
IT'S VERY NICE DARLING
AMERICA'S DOING EVER SO WELL SIR SHE CAN READ AND WRITE - AND ALL THE REST OF THEM STILL ON JUVEY BLOCKS
MIZ LEFEVRE SAYS SHE'S VERY MATURE FOR HER AGE SHE'D LIKE HER TO MOVE UP A CLASS
NO NO I WANT AMI TO REMAIN A CHILD AS LONG AS SHE CAN

A YEAR AFTER AMERICA DIED SHE GAVE BIRTH TO OUR CHILD
I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT OUR ONE NIGHT TOGETHER OUR ISLAND OF HAPPINESS AMID THAT OCEAN OF DESPAIR COULD HAVE YIELDED SOMETHING SO PRECIOUS BUT I WON'T LIE TO YOU
BEFORE I HAD MY BRAIN IMPLANTED IN AMERICA'S SKULL I IMPREGNATED HER
CALL IT SICK CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE IT WASN'T LIKE THAT
I WAS CRAZED WITH GRIEF I FELT I COULD SOMEHOW RECREATE HER BRING HER BACK MAKE GOOD ALL THE HURT I CAUSED HER

WHAT I GOT WAS ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT
IT'S A GIRL
TO FEEL HER MOVING TURNING KICKING INSIDE ME KNOWING AMERICA WAS PART OF HER AMI AND ME I WAS SWAMPED WITH LOVE
IT'S A FEELING I CAN'T DESCRIBE A FEELING FEW MEN ARE PRIVILEGED TO KNOW
AND STRANGELY EVEN WITH AMI DEAD AND GONE FOREVER JUST A SHELL THAT I WORE — A HAIR SHIRT I'D PUT ON TO TORMENT MYSELF — FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I BEGAN TO FEEL HAPPY TRULY HAPPY
THE BIRTH WAS DIFFICULT
THE DRUGS I TOOK TO COUNTER REJECTION PREVENTED HER DEVELOPING ANY NATURAL IMMUNITY A COMMON COLD COULD HAVE KILLED HER
SHE SPENT THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF HER LIFE IN A BUBBLE
SHE'S A FIGHTER
AND SHE WAS AMI HAD ALL HER MOTHER'S INNER STEEL AND THANKFULLY FEW OF THE BRENT TRAITS

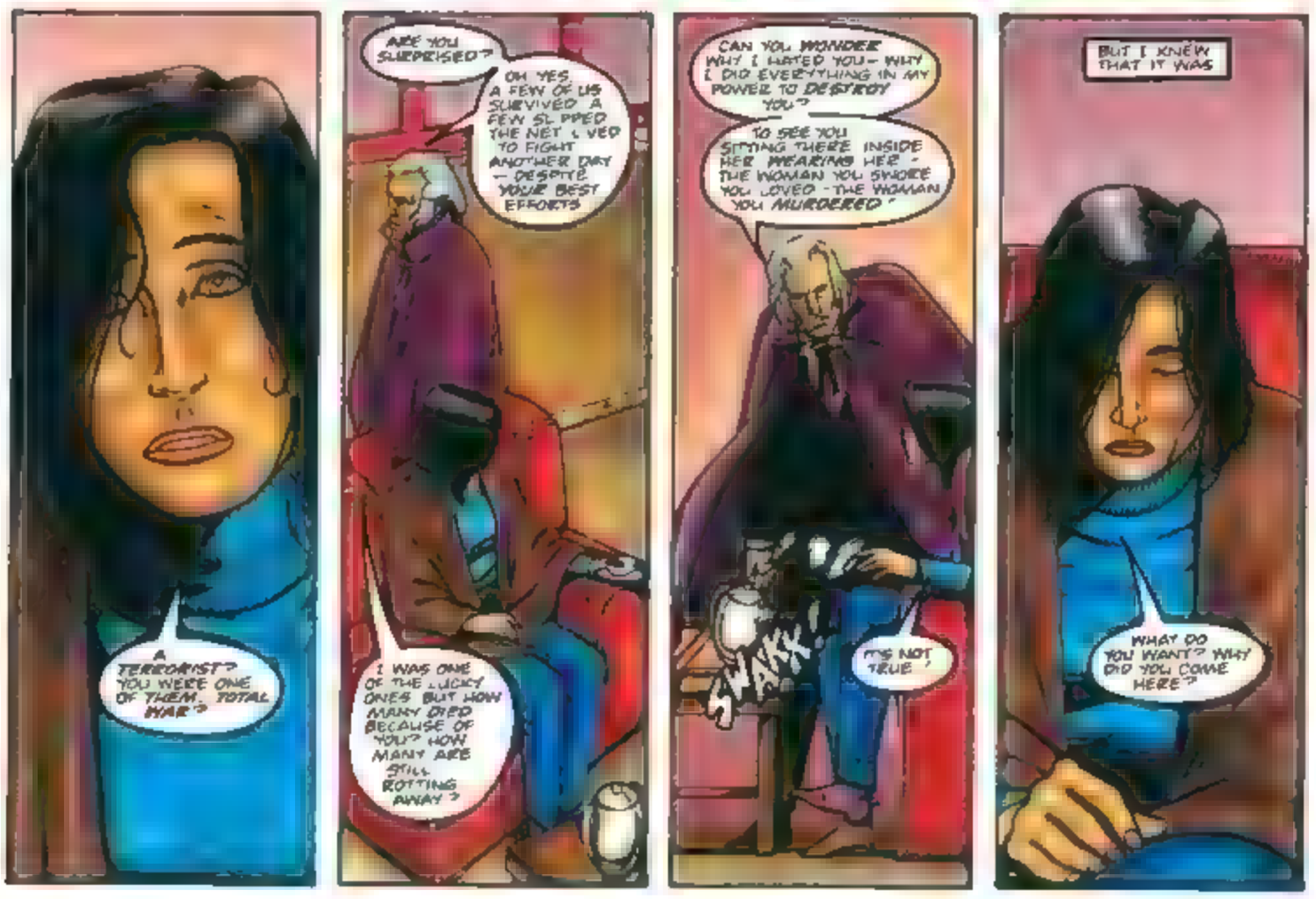

OH AMERICA FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I'VE DONE TO YOU
BUT THERE WERE REASONS YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, THE SITUATION WAS BEYOND MY CONTROL
IN THE END THE DEVIL SEEMED THE ONLY SALVATION

DEMOCRACY
LET'S LOOK AT IT ANOTHER WAY
WE HAD AN ELECTION ONLY 57 [redacted]CENT OF ELECTORS EVEN BOTHERED TO VOTE
OVER HALF OF THEM VOTED FOR CANDIDATES WHO DID NOT GET ELECTED--SO WE'RE DOWN TO 28 PERCENT
FOLLOWING ME?
THE RULING PARTY CAME IN WITH A THIRD OF WHAT WAS LEFT— THAT'S 9 PERCENT, GIVE OR TAKE
THEY'RE KEPT IN POWER BY AN ASSORTMENT OF FRINGE PARTIES AND INDEPENDENTS -- THROW THEM A FEW CRUMBS AND THEY'LL DO WHAT THEY'RE TOLD, SO THEY DON'T COUNT
SO WHEN YOU COME DOWN TO IT ONLY ONE CITIZEN IN TEN ACTUALLY WANTS THE GOVERNMENT THEY ELECTED AND MOST OF THEM DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY VOTED FOR
THAT'S THE WAY IT IS THAT'S THE WAY IT'S ALWAYS BEEN RIGHT DOWN THROUGH THE AGES
DEMOCRACY? POWER TO THE PEOPLE?
DON'T KID YOURSELVES

A MR VICTOR PORTNOY TO SEE YOU SIR
WHAT DOES HE WANT ?
MR PORTNOY UNDERSTANDS YOU'RE DYING SIR HE WISHES TO OFFER HIS CONDOLENCES
TELL HIM NO I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE LIKE THIS, ESPECIALLY HIM

TALK OF THE MEG
BENNET BEENY
Sings for you
AFTER THE TRANSPLANT, MY CAREER HAD TAKEN A NOSEDIVE
WITH AMERICA'S BLOOD FRESH ON MY HANDS, I COULDN'T BEAR TO PERFORM THE FUNNY LITTLE DITTIES THAT HAD MADE BENNETT BEENY A HOUSEHOLD NAME
INSTEAD, I SANG ABOUT INJUSTICE AND TYRANNY AND THE SICKNESS THAT HAD US ALL IN ITS GRIP
AND NOBODY WANTED TO KNOW
THE CRITICS DESTROYED ME
FOREMOST AMONG THEM WAS VICTOR PORTNOY HIS REVIEW IS STILL ETCHED IN WHAT LITTLE REMAINS OF MY MIND
HE DESCRIBED ME AS A SAD SICK LITTLE MAN AND MY ACT AS A "PERVERSION" AND A "FREAK SHOW"
IN THE END THAT'S WHAT IT BECAME. AUDIENCES CAME NOT TO LISTEN, BUT TO GAWK AT THE FREAK - BEENY THE BODYSNATCHER THE TWISTED MAN / WOMAN
CANCELLED
I RETIRED FROM PUBLIC LIFE. I WAS ALREADY A MILLIONAIRE SEVERAL TIMES OVER. I DON'T NEED THEM
BUT IT HAD BEEN VICTOR PORTNOY WHO'D SPREAD THE POISON. "VICTOR THE VIPER" THEY CALLED HIM "POISON PORTNOY"
I DIDN'T REALISE THEN JUST HOW POISONOUS HE WAS
AN ARNIE. MY, MY THAT MUST GIVE YOU A WARM GLOW BENNETT THE PINNACLE OF A SONG-WRITER'S CAREER
I HAVEN'T WON IT YET

I THINK WE CAN SAFELY SAY YOU'VE WON SUCH A TOUCHING LITTLE NUMBER HOW DOES IT GO ?
I'LL NEVER SAY GOODBYE AS LONG AS I CAN DREAM ANOTHER DREAM ANOTHER CHANCE TO .
OH, WELL I SUPPOSE MOST SONGS SOUND SOMEWHAT TRITE WHEN YOU SAY THEM LIKE THAT
MR PORTNOY HOW DID YOU KNOW I'M DYING? THE INFORMATION HASN'T BEEN MADE PUBLIC
HE HAD HIS SOURCES HE SAID HIS NEXT WORDS LEFT ME STUNNED
HOW STRANGE IT IS TO SEE HER SITTING THERE - - HER FLESH HER HAIR— HER EYES THE SIGHT ALWAYS TAKES ME ABACK
RITE
YOU KNEW AMERICA? BUT HOW?
HOW DO YOU THINK?


A TERRORIST? YOU WERE ONE OF THEM. TOTAL WAR?
ARE YOU SURPRISED?
OH YES. A FEW OF US SURVIVED A FEW SLIPPED THE NET LIVED TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY — DESPITE YOUR BEST EFFORTS
I WAS ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES BUT HOW MANY DIED BECAUSE OF YOU? HOW MANY ARE STILL ROTTING AWAY?
CAN YOU WONDER WHY I HATED YOU— WHY I DID EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO DESTROY YOU?
TO SEE YOU SITTING THERE INSIDE HER WEARING HER - THE WOMAN YOU SWORE YOU LOVED - THE WOMAN YOU MURDERED
SWAKK!
IT'S NOT TRUE!
BUT I KNEW THAT IT WAS
WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

REFORMS WERE A SHAM. THE PEOPLE NEEDED SOMETHING — A GRAND GESTURE — TO SHAKE THEM FROM THEIR COMPLACENCY
THE TARGET WOULD BE COLMAN HERRIS, PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS, WHO WOULD BE PRESENTING THE ARNIE AWARDS
I WOULD MOUNT THE PODIUM, MAKE A SHORT SPEECH DEMANDING TRUE DEMOCRATIC REFORM -- THEN BLOW US BOTH TO KINGDOM COME
W WHY HERRIS?
HE'S A COLLABORATOR
COUNCILLOR COLMAN HERRIS CHAIRMAN OF THE JUSTICE SUB COMMITTEE — WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH THE JUDGES TO PERPETRATE THIS GROTESQUE CONFIDENCE TRICK'
YOU'RE DYING ANYWAY BENNETT WHAT DOES IT MATTER? GO OUT WITH A BANG FOR ONCE GIVE SOME MEANING TO YOUR SAD, SICK LIFE
NO I WON'T DO IT--
YOU HATED THEM— THOUGHT YOU HATED THE JUDGES?
I CAN'T IT'S MURDER'
THAT DIDN'T STOP YOU BEFORE' IT'S WHAT SHE WOULD WANT — SHE WOULD DO IT'
N- NOT ME' I - I'M NOT AM. --
IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE AMENDS' YOU OWE IT TO HER'

OWE IT TO HER!
OWE IT TO HER!
OWE IT TO HER!
N-N-NOT THAT'! I DON'T OWE HER THAT!
UHH, UHHHH - UNNHHH
SIR-!
HE APPEARS TO BE HAVING SOME KIND OF SEIZURE
UNNHHHHHH-
I DO HOPE HE'S WELL ENOUGH TO MAKE THE ARMIES.
WET HIMSELF HOW DISGUSTING

DREDD--
WHAT IS IT PENDER?
SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU
ROUTINE SURVEILLANCE ON OUR OLD FRIEND BEENY PICKED THEM UP
VICTOR PORTNOY S SUSPECTED OF L NK'S WITH VARIOUS DEMOCRATIC TERRORIST GROUPS - NOTHING WE VE BEEN ABLE TO PIN A CHARGE ON
OF COURSE THE MEETING COULD BE INNOCENT - THEY RE IN THE SAME LINE OF WORK
ON THE OTHER HAND BEENY S CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL RECORDS SAY HE S GOT ACUTE REJECTION SYNDROME - HE HAS ONLY A SHORT WHILE TO LIVE
AND A MAN WITH NOTHING TO LOSE IS CAPABLE OF DESPERATE ACTS
YOU WERE RIGHT TO BRING TH S TO MY ATTENTION STEP UP SURVEILLANCE - A WATCH ON BEENY ROUND THE CLOCK
IT S PROBABLY NOTH NG STILL BEST TO BE SURE

I'M AFRAID THIS KIND OF THING IS GOING TO HAPPEN MORE OFTEN — AND WORSE
DOES THE CHILD KNOW ANYTHING?
I BELIEVE SHE MAY SUSPECT
WHEN HE RECOVERS SUFFICIENTLY, HE SHOULD TELL HER IT'S BEST TO BE TOTALLY FRANK ABOUT THESE THINGS
SHE'S GONE!
THE LADY IN 4 — I MEAN THE GENTLEMAN
YOU'VE CHECKED THE RESTROOM?
EVERYWHERE!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WAS DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT THERE
THERE WAS A POUNDING IN MY HEAD STRANGE LIGHTS EXPLODING IN MY EYES
I COULDN'T SEE STRAIGHT COULDN'T THINK
SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED — SOMETHING BAD BUT I COULDN'T REMEMBER
I COULDN'T REMEMBER
WHAT YOU DOIN OUT HERE ALL ALONE SWEET THING?
SHE'S REAL PRETTY MAN
GO MMMMM-- L-LEEMEE
HEY. BABY DON'T GO 'WAY
BITCH DON'T WALK RIGHT SOMETHIN WRONG WIT HER

SHE ONE A THEM SUB NORMS
HERE CHIKKIE CHIKKIE CHIKKIE
COME TA PAPA
URRRRRMM
SHE GOT NOTH N UNNERNEATH
NO OHH
SHE LOOKS PRETTY GOOD TA ME
REAL GOOD
URMMMUHA
SHE LIKE THAT MAN
ME NEXT
SLASH
OHAN YOU
SMAKKK
DON'T FIGHT IT BABY GO WIT THE FLOW
HURRY IT UP

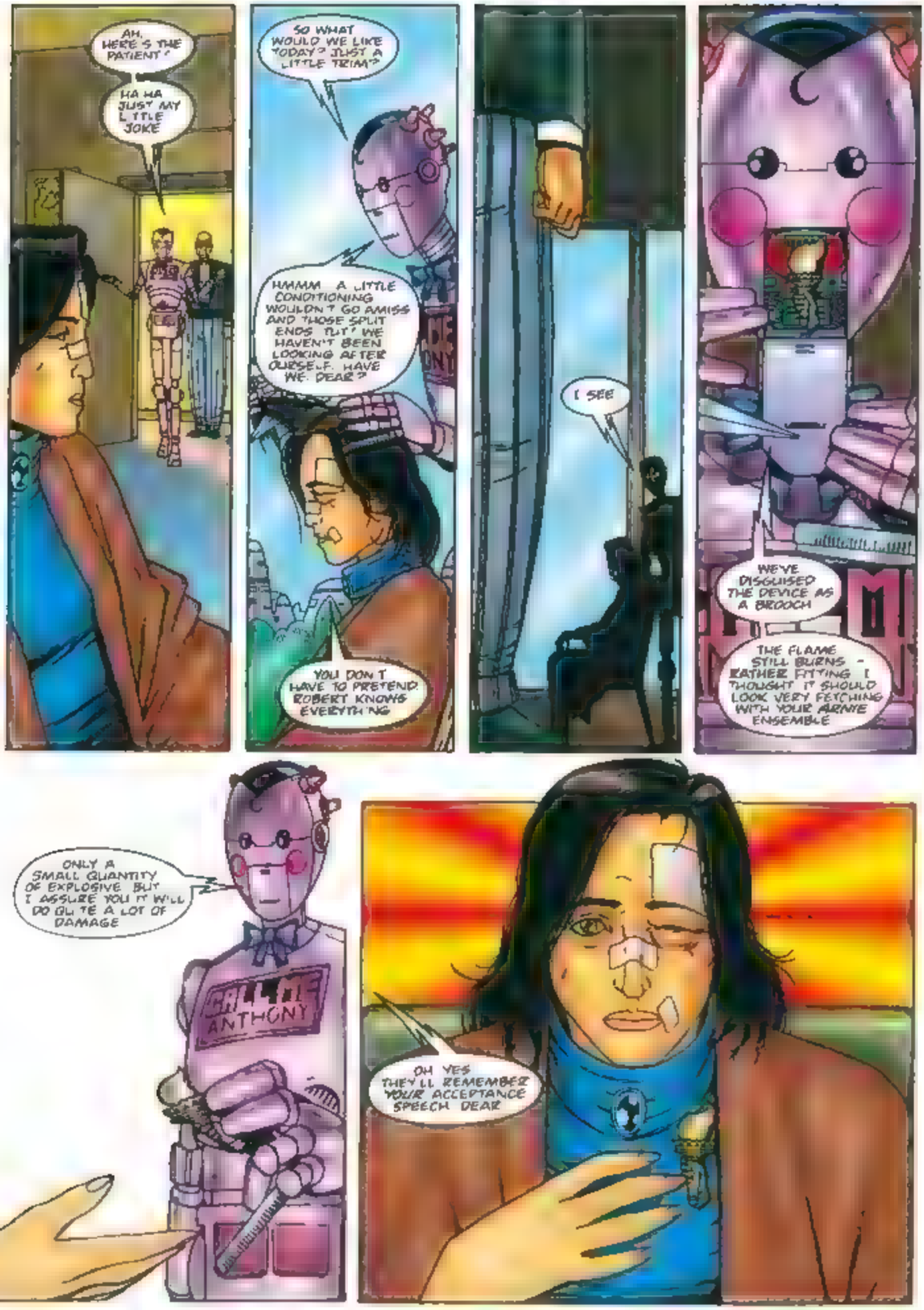
UNNHH
UHH-
UHH-
UHH-
UHHHHH
LOOK'IT HER JERK MAN' SHE HAVIN' SOME KINDA FIT-
EVEN BETTER!
RAISE EM!
SHEEEE
AND I'M REFEREEING TO YOUR HANDS

I HAD NOTHIN TA DO WITH IT JUDGE' I NEVER TOUCHED HER'
DON'T LIE TO ME SONNY I SAW IT ALL YOU ALL TOOK TURNS
YOUR CONDITION IS STABILISED-- FOR THE MOMENT
OF COURSE IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN AT ANY TIME AND NO DOUBT WILL IF YOU TAKE MY ADVICE YOU WILL REMAIN WHERE WHERE YOU CAN BE PROPERLY LOOKED AFTER
THIS HOSPITAL HAS HARDLY DISTINGUISHED ITSELF IN THAT RESPECT
RECEPTION LEVEL

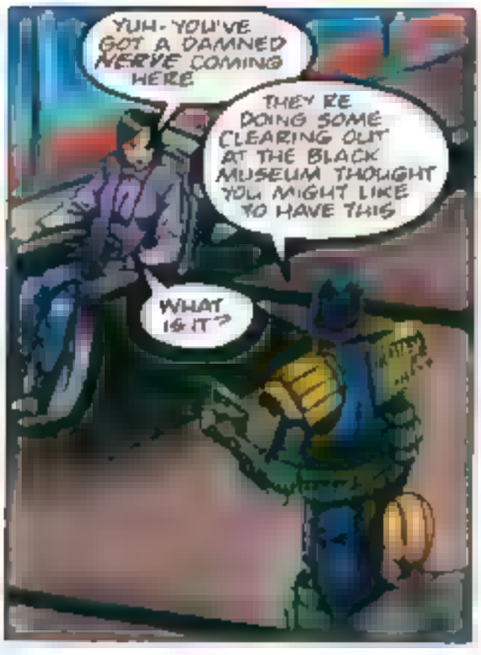
CAN I DO ANYTHING ELSE FOR YOU SIR?
NO THANK YOU ROBERT JUST BRING ME THE PHONE AND LEAVE ME
MUCH BETTER OFF AT HOME SIR MUCH BETTER OFF I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU, DON'T YOU WORRY
I KNOW YOU WILL ROBERT
YOU ALL TOOK TURNS
I SAW IT ALL
SAW IT ALL
SAW IT ALL
PORTNOY BENNETT BEENY
THAT PROPOSITION YOU MENTIONED I'LL DO IT

YOUR REPORT SAYS YOU WERE ON WATCH OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL WHEN THE SUBJECT EMERGED OBVIOUSLY IN DISTRESSED CONDITION
SUBJECT ENCOUNTERED THREE JIVES WHO PURSUED HIM INTO A HOSPITAL PASSAGEWAY AND PROCEEDED TO VIOLENTLY MOLEST HIM-- AT WHICH TIME YOU INTERVENED.
I BLEW COVER I KNOW BUT WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU COULD DO BOYCE -- YOU COULD HAVE STEPPED IN BEFORE IT HAPPENED -- INSTEAD YOU STOOD BY WHILE THREE THUGS TOOK IT IN TURNS TO RAPE A CITIZEN!
I WANT YOUR BADGE!
H-HEY WHAT IS THIS--?
SO I WAS A LITTLE SLOW -- SO WHAT? SHE'S GIVEN US PLENTY OF MOUTH IN THE PAST SHE -HE GOT WHAT HE DESERVED
I INTEND TO SEE YOU PAY THE FULL PENALTY

HAIRY CAREY MOBILE – AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HANDSOME THING
TONY
COME IN YOU'RE EXPECTED


AH, HERE'S THE PATIENT!
HA HA JUST MY LITTLE JOKE
SO WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TODAY? JUST A LITTLE TRIM?
HMMM A LITTLE CONDITIONING WOULDN'T GO AMISS AND THOSE SPLIT ENDS TUT' WE HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING AFTER OURSELF. HAVE WE. DEAR?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND ROBERT KNOWS EVERYTH'NG
I SEE
WE'VE DISGUISED THE DEVICE AS A BROOCH
THE FLAME STILL BURNS - RATHER FITTING I THOUGHT IT SHOULD LOOK VERY FETCHING WITH YOUR ARMYE ENSEMBLE
ONLY A SMALL QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVE BUT I ASSURE YOU IT WILL DO QUITE A LOT OF DAMAGE
ANTHONY
OH YES THEY'LL REMEMBER YOUR ACCEPTANCE SPEECH DEAR

ALMOST AS SOON AS I'D AGREED TO MURDER COLMAN HERRIS, I BEGAN TO REGRET IT
JUDGE DREDD TO SEE YOU SIR
I'D BEEN BRUTALLY VIOLATED AND THEY'D STOOD AND WATCHED VICTOR PORTNOY WAS RIGHT NOTHING HAD CHANGED DEMOCRACY WAS A SHAM THE JUDGES STILL DID AS THEY PLEASED
WHU - WHAT DOES HE WANT?
BUT AS THE DAYS TO THE ARNIES SLIPPED AWAY, SO DID MY RESOLVE
I'M TEACHING MY LIZARD TO SING DO YOU WANT TO HEAR HIM?
I'LL TAKE A RAIN CHECK
MY DAD SAYS YOU'RE BAD YOU HURT PEOPLE
SOMETIMES IT'S NECESSARY
JUDGES KILLED MY MOMMY
SHE BROKE THE LAW THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS
AMERICA. COME AWAY—
MR BEENY WILL SEE YOU NOW
BRIGHT KID SURPRISING CONSIDERING.
WE'RE ALL VERY PROUD OF HER
PLEASE BE GENTLE WITH HIM SIR THE MASTER IS MOST UNWELL
SO I HEAR


YUH- YOU'VE GOT A DAMNED NERVE COMING HERE
THEY'RE DOING SOME CLEARING OUT AT THE BLACK MUSEUM THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HAVE THIS
WHAT IS IT?

YOUR FATHER'S TEETH
TEETH OF KOLARJ BEENY
17th victim of serial killer
David Duchrane
aka 'Dave the Orthodontist'
Numbered in order of extraction.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, JUDGE THOMAS BOYCE IS UNDER ARREST, CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL NEGLECT OF DUTY
SEEMS HE WAS IN A POSITION TO PREVENT THE ASSAULT ON YOU BUT TOOK NO ACTION
I'D LIKE TO OFFER THE DEPARTMENT'S APOLOGIES

IT-IT IT'S A BIT DAMNED LATE FOR UH-UH-UPP -
APOLOGIES SIR

PLEASE, IF THAT'S ALL YOU CAME FOR THIS VISIT IS CAUSING GREAT DISTRESS
A WORD OF ADVICE BEENY— YOU'RE MIXING WITH THE WRONG KIND OF PEOPLE

YOU'VE BUH BEEN WATCHING THE HOUSE
M SORRY ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU, BUT BE WARNED —I'LL MAKE NO ALLOWANCES
YOU'VE STAYED THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW UP TILL NOW. KEEP IT THAT WAY

HE KNOWS
HE CAN'T KNOW, SIR
THEN HE SUSPECTS

JUH JUDGE DREDD ALWAYS SUSPECTS

WHERE DO I STAND?
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE I STAND
I STAND FOR JUSTICE. I STAND FOR DISCIPLINE, GOOD ORDER AND THE RIGID APPLICATION OF THE LAW
I MAKE NO EXCEPTIONS
NOT FOR YOU. NOT FOR US. A JUDGE STEPS OUT OF LINE. HE'LL DO TIME. SAME AS THE NEXT CREEP
THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT. AND THEY RESPECT IT
MAYBE I'M NO MR. NICE GUY— BUT AT LEAST I'M CONSISTENT

LEAVE ME I WANT TO TO DO IT ON MY
DID MOMMY BLOW UP THE STATUE ?
NO THAT WAS SOMEONE ELSE BUT SHE TRIED
YOUR MOTHER WAS VERY BRAVE
AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE VERY BRAVE TOO MY DARLING

"ARE YOU GOING TO DIE DADDY?"
"YES, DARLING"
"I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE"
"I DON'T WANT TO EITHER SOMETIMES THESE THINGS HAPPEN
"I'LL BE ALL ON MY OWN WHO'LL LOOK AFTER ME?"
"MRS WILSON—AND ROBERT DON'T WORRY, THEY'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU YOU'LL HAVE EVERYTHING YOU COULD WANT"
"I WANT YOU"
"I'LL BE THERE UP IN HEAVEN WITH YOUR MOMMY WE'LL ALWAYS BE WATCHING OVER YOU"

darling America
My darling America
CAH— CAN'T DO IT ANYMUH MUH MUH
ZIGG V. VEEL ZIG
TAKE THESE PILLS, SIR
JUST LIE BACK AND REST I'LL CONTINUE WITH IT FOR YOU, SHALL I?
MY DARLING AMERICA SOON I'LL BE GONE BUT I PROMISE I'LL ALWAYS BE WATCHING YOU THE LOVE THAT I FEEL FOR YOU CAN NEVER DIE
I'M NOT PERFECT - GRUD KNOWS WHAT HUMAN BEING IS? - BUT I ALWAYS TRIED TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT
SOMETIMES I GOT THINGS WRONG, THAT'S ALL
STATEN ADOT
MY BIG MISTAKE WAS EVER TO GET INVOLVED WITH A MONSTER LIKE VICTOR PORTNOY
ROBERT-- WHERE'S MRS WILSON?
SHE'S HELPING YOUR FATHER GET READY.
THE ARNIES TONIGHT! YAAY! I TOLD EVERYONE MY DAD WAS GOING TO WIN!
I'M CERTAIN HE WILL IT'S A MOST TOUCHING SONG

MR VICTOR POETNOT
AH BEENY JUST STOPPED BY TO MAKE SURE YOU RE ALL READY FOR TONIGHT
I'M... GLAD YOU CUH CUH CALLED.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU I CAN'T GUH GO THROUGH WITH IT
AH, BUT YOU MUST IT S GONE TOO FAR NOW BEENY TOO MANY OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT GET COLD FEET AFTER ALL. YOU'VE DONE IT BEFORE HAVEN'T YOU?
PLEASE LEAVE TAKE YOUR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WITH YOU
WHAT A JOY IT IS TO SEE YOU THERE - TWITCHING LIKE A FISH WASTING AWAY BEFORE MY EYES SOON YOU LL BE A GIBBERING IMBECILE IT'S A FATE YOU SO RICHLY DESERVE
THE ONLY SHAME IS YOU RE DOING IT IN HER BODY
I DON'T THINK YOU QUITE UNDERSTOOD ME
TAP TAP

DID YOU PICK UP YOUR PASSENGER?
SHE'S ABOARD
SHOW

YOU BLIH BASTARD!

YOU-YOU'LL NEVER GUH-GUH-GUH-
GET AWAY WITH IT? OH I THINK WE WILL

WE'LL HOLD ONTO HER UNTIL AFTER THE CEREMONY
I'VE JOTTED DOWN YOUR SPEECH IT'S JUST A FEW LINES - I TRUST YOUR BRAIN IS NOT TOO ADDLED YET TO REMEMBER THEM?
ROBBERDOOO

I'LL SEE MYSELF OUT

ROBERT THEY SAID AT THE SCHOOL THAT YOU & COLLECTED AMERICA -
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

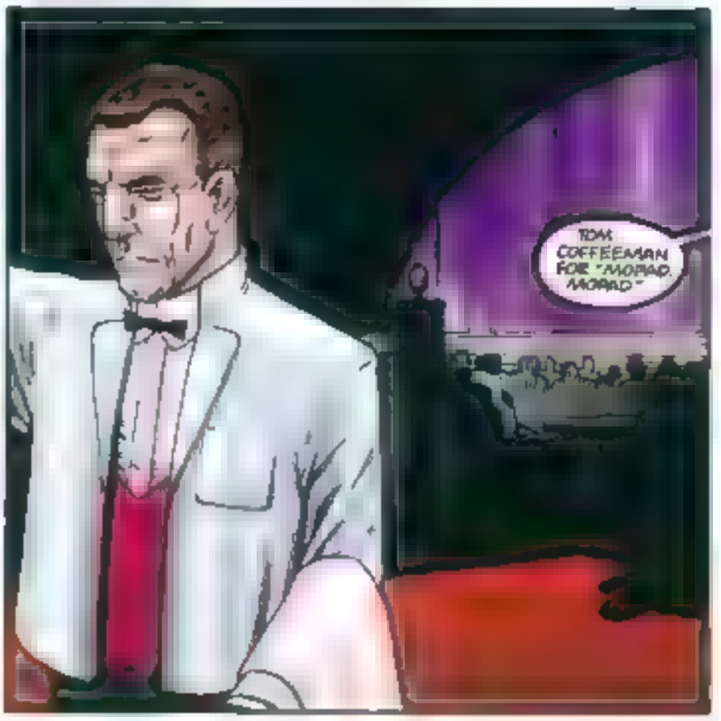
REGRETTABLY NO.

YOU JOIN ME TONIGHT AT THE ANNIE HALL FOR MEGA CITY ONE'S GLITTERING NIGHT OF THE STARS THE 87TH ANNUAL ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS
Academy of Performing Arts
THE LAST FEW GUESTS ARE ARRIVING NOW I CAN SEE ACTOR FRANK DOONTZ ESCORTING STARLET ABELIA KARAAM—
BEHIND THEM CRITIC VICTOR PORTNOY A MEMBER OF THIS YEAR'S AWARD COMMITTEE
I'M WITH COOL MCCABE STAR OF THE ACCLAIMED HOLOBUSTER "BONSAI BULLET BABY" COOL - ANOTHER ANNIE FOR THE TROPHY CABINET?
HOPEFUL ALWAYS HOPEFUL
POOT WOOTERS - "DIE BLOODY 24" - TWENTY FOURTH TIME LUCKY?
BUTT OUT ASSHOLE
THANKS FOR THAT POOT
SONGWRITER BENNETT BEENY ARRIVING NOW
BENNETT'S SADLY BEEN HAVING SOME HEALTH PROBLEMS, BUT STILL MAKING A BRAVE EFFORT TO ATTEND TONIGHT
NO DOUBT AN ANNIE WILL GO A LONG WAY TO AID HIS RECOVERY

87
AH BEENY LET ME WISH YOU GOOD LUCK
AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE GIRL WHEN THIS IS OVER WE'LL KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HER
WE'LL SEE THAT SHE GROWS UP REMEMBERING WHO HER MOTHER WAS — THE SACRIFICE BOTH OF YOU MADE FOR THE CAUSE
NURRR —
OH YES IT'S THE WAY IT MUST BE - YOU KNOW THAT BEENY
THE GIRL HAS A DESTINY THE STRUGGLE MUST GO ON
ANYTHING YET, PENDER?

SURVEILLANCE CAMS TRACKED THE LIMO FROM THE SCHOOL TO THE UNDERSKED THERE'S NO TRACE OF IT EXITING. BUT THE CAM ON FIRMONT WAS BEEN NON FUNCTIONAL FOR THREE WEEKS
FIRMONT'S ONLY ONE EXIT VEHICLE MAY HAVE HAD A CUSTOM SPECTRO JOB— CHANGED COLOUR AND REGISTRATION IN THE UNDERSKED.
CROSS-CHECK AGAINST VEH CLES ENTERING
WILCO.
HERE TO PRESENT THE AWARDS, PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS, COLMAN HERRIS

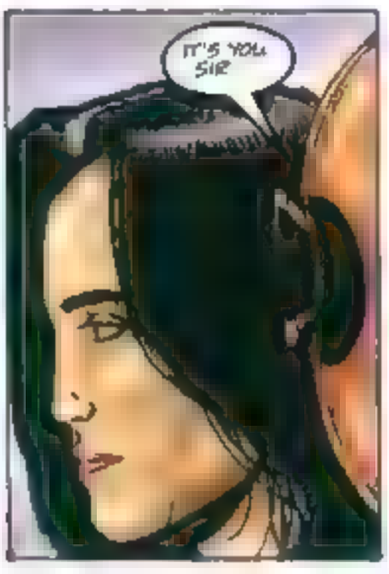
THE FIRST CATEGORY IS BEST ASSISTANT TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. THE NOMINATIONS ARE
EVADNE BIRD FOR HER WORK ON "MY UGLY CASH AND CARRY"
BOD MISHKIN FOR HIS ABLE ASSISTANCE ON "DIE BLOODY 24"


TOM COFFEEMAN FOR "MOPAD. MOPAD."

PENDER I THINK WE'VE GOT IT CHANGED TO TWO TONE BLUE AND WHITE REG KDZ235AG EXITED ON WEST ST P.
I'M RUNNING A TRACE-
VEHICLE LAST RECORDED AT 16 2 HOURS ENTERING HYLANDS BLOCK ON SOUTH APPROACH NO RECORD OF IT LEAVING
ON MY WAY!
THE NOMINATIONS IN THE BEST HOLOGRAPHY CATEGORY ARE
SPELMAN DOSIER FOR "TSUNAMI SURF BUM"
ELS VIDOR FOR "MY UGLY CASH AND CARRY"
HYLA
I VANT TO SAY SANK YOU TO MY BRILLIANT HOLOTEKS, BOB HANDREWS UND JUDEE POLENTA VAS VERE DIFFICULT CHOB CASH UND CARRY NOT BEING ZER MOST PROMISING SUBJECT IN ZER VOORLD
HAVE YOU HUHHHEARD ANYTH NG, ROBERDd ?
THERE'S STILL TIME, SIR
WE HAVE THREE NOMINATIONS IN THE CATEGORY OF BEST SONG.
RANDY PHILADELPHIA FOR "DIGGY DOG DOG DIGGY" FROM "BONSA BULLET BABY"

BETTY AND ROOFER GORDON FOR "THEME FROM "MY UGLY CASH AND CARRY"
BENNETT BEENY FOR "ANOTHER DREAM FROM "OUT OF THE UNDERCITY"
DREDD. IT'S NO GO SHE COULD BE HERE, THEY COULD HAVE TRANSFERRED HER TO ANOTHER VEHICLE NO WAY OF KNOWING IT'LL TAKE DAYS TO RUN A HOUSE TO HOUSE
WE HAVEN'T GOT DAYS ! ME'S RUNNING OUT PENDER WAIT THERE
DIG DOGGY DOGGY DIG
BIG BUGGY BUGGY BUGGY BIG BIG
GOING SOMEWHERE, MR PORTNOY?
CALL OF NATURE -- THOUGH WHAT IT HAS TO DO WITH YOU--
FORGET NATURE I GOT PRIORITY
NEVER SAY GOODBYE AS LONG AS I CAN DREAM ANOTHER DREAM
WH- WHAT IS THIS?
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE WITH YOU, MR PORTNOY ! WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE HOLDING AMERICA BEENY.
HE TALKED--!
YES. HE TALKED. NOW YOU'RE GOING TO.

AND THE WINNER IS "ANOTHER DREAM," BY BENNETT BEENY!


IT'S YOU SIR

LET ME HELP--
NO!

I - I'LL MUH MANAGE IT ON MY OWN

MY JOURNEY TO THE STAGE WAS PAINFULLY SLOW I HAD TO DRAG IT OUT GIVE THEM MORE TIME

IT WASN'T HARD. MY BODY NO LONGER WILLINGLY RESPONDED TO COMMAND TWICE I STUMBLED. BUT I WOULDN'T LET THEM HELP ME UP

HAS UNIT MIA
HOW MANY HOLDING HER?
PENDER GO TO UNIT MIA!

YOU DON'T THINK IT'S JUST HERRIS DO YOU?

WHOOPS SHE'S DOWN AGAIN
THIS IS RIDICULOUS HE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE HE'S EMBARRASSING US ALL
SIR
HERRIS'S DEATH IS JUST A SIGNAL WE HAVE SUICIDE ACTIVISTS PLANTED IN THE HALL HAVAA' BRAVE BOYS READY TO DIE FOR THE CAUSE'
DROKK'
UNHHH UNHHH
PLEASE KEEP BACK
HE'S HAVING A FIT'

BEENY'S NOT GOING TO GET UP' IT'S GOT TO BE NOW'
WHAT'S YOUR GAME ASSHOLE?

THERE'S GOING TO BE A SLAUGHTER LIKE YOU WON'T BELIEVE! REAL STARS BLEEDING REAL BLOOD FOR ONCE -- ON WORLDWIDE TV!
DEMOCRACY OR DEATH!
FZZANGGG
SPATTA
AHHHH
OH MY GRUD--!

FZAKKA
FZAKKA
THIS IS INCREDIBLE! GLITTERING STARS OF THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD BEING MOWN DOWN BEFORE OUR EYES!
I CAN SEE BITTA STIMPLE DOWN- HEINZ HITLER— AND COOL McCABE HOT TIPPED FOR THIS YEAR'S ARNIE!
THIS IS NO PERFORMANCE! THAT'S REAL BLOOD FOLKS! STARS ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES!
AHHHH
SPATTA
FZAKKA
FZAKKA
FZAKKA
OH! THERE GOES GLAMOUR COUPLE DREEK AND DORIS BRANHOFF!
RUMOURS OF THEIR SEPARATION WOULD SEEM TO BE CONFIRMED!
AHHH!
SPATTA
FZAKKA
YOU DON' STOP POOY WOOTERS
FZAKKA

TAKE 'EM OUT!
BDAM
YOU TWO - MOVE AWAY FROM THAT CHILD!
KRASHH
UNGGG
BDAM BDAM
SPATTA
DEMOCRACY--
AIEEEE
--OR DEATHHHHHH-!
FAAAA
ZAK
ZAK

DEEDO - I HAVE THE GIRL SHE'S UNHURT
GOOD WORK PENDER
AT LEAST THAT'S SOMETHING WE GOT RIGHT
HOW DOES IT FEEL?
I DON'T KNOW IF YOUR FACULTIES ARE INTACT ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND ME BEENY BUT YOUR DAUGHTER'S SAFE AND WELL
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD US ABOUT THIS FROM THE BEGINNING IF YOU WEREN'T SO NEAR DEATH ALREADY I'D SEND YOU AWAY FOR A LONG LONG TIME
NOW GET OUT OF HERE
YOU HEAR THAT SIR?
SUCH RUDENESS NO WONDER PEOPLE TURN TO DEMOCRACY YOU MUSTN'T BLAME YOURSELF SIR

THE THEORY WAS THAT THE SLAUGHTER WOULD SPARK A JUSTICE DEPT CRACKDOWN ON ALL DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITY THE ENSUING ATMOSPHERE OF REPRESSION WOULD BRING FRESH RECRUITS RUSHING TO JOHN VICTOR PORTNOY'S CAUSE
MAY GRUD SHOULD SUCH AN ENTITY EXIST - AND ALL LOGIC SUGGESTS OTHERWISE - MAY GRUD FORBID
THAT SHOULD DO IT
HOW ARE WE SIR? FEELING A LITTLE BETTER NOW?
YEZZZ
THAT'S GOOD DON'T WANT TO BE ALL SLOBBERY AND TWITCH'NG WHEN WE SEE MISS AMI DO WE?
GOODBYE, MY DARLING I LOVE YOU I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I CAN EVER PUT INTO WORDS I KNOW YOU'LL BE BRAVE I KNOW YOU'LL MAKE ME PROUD OF YOU

COME
DADDY--
ALMOST TIME FOR YOU TO GO TOO SIR
" I LIKE TO SAY SIR, WHAT A GREAT PLEASURE IT HAS BEEN TO SERVE YOU"
ZZWK - ZZANK YOU ROBYRD
MR BEENY ISN'T IT? WE'RE ALL READY FOR YOU. WE HAVE A NICE COMFORTABLE ROOM WITH SOME OF YOUR OWN MUSIC PLAYING - WON'T THAT BE NICE?
WE'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE INJECTION AND YOU'LL GO INTO A NICE PLEASANT SLEEP
DWNN DWNN LEAD ME--
"NO SIR DON'T WORRY
"I'LL BE THERE"

I HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE THE DEVIL — OR SOMETHING WORSE
FORGIVE ME BUT I CHOSE THE DEVIL
AMERICA BEENY
COME WITH ME
I'M SORRY TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR FATHER WAS QUIETLY PUT TO REST LAST NIGHT

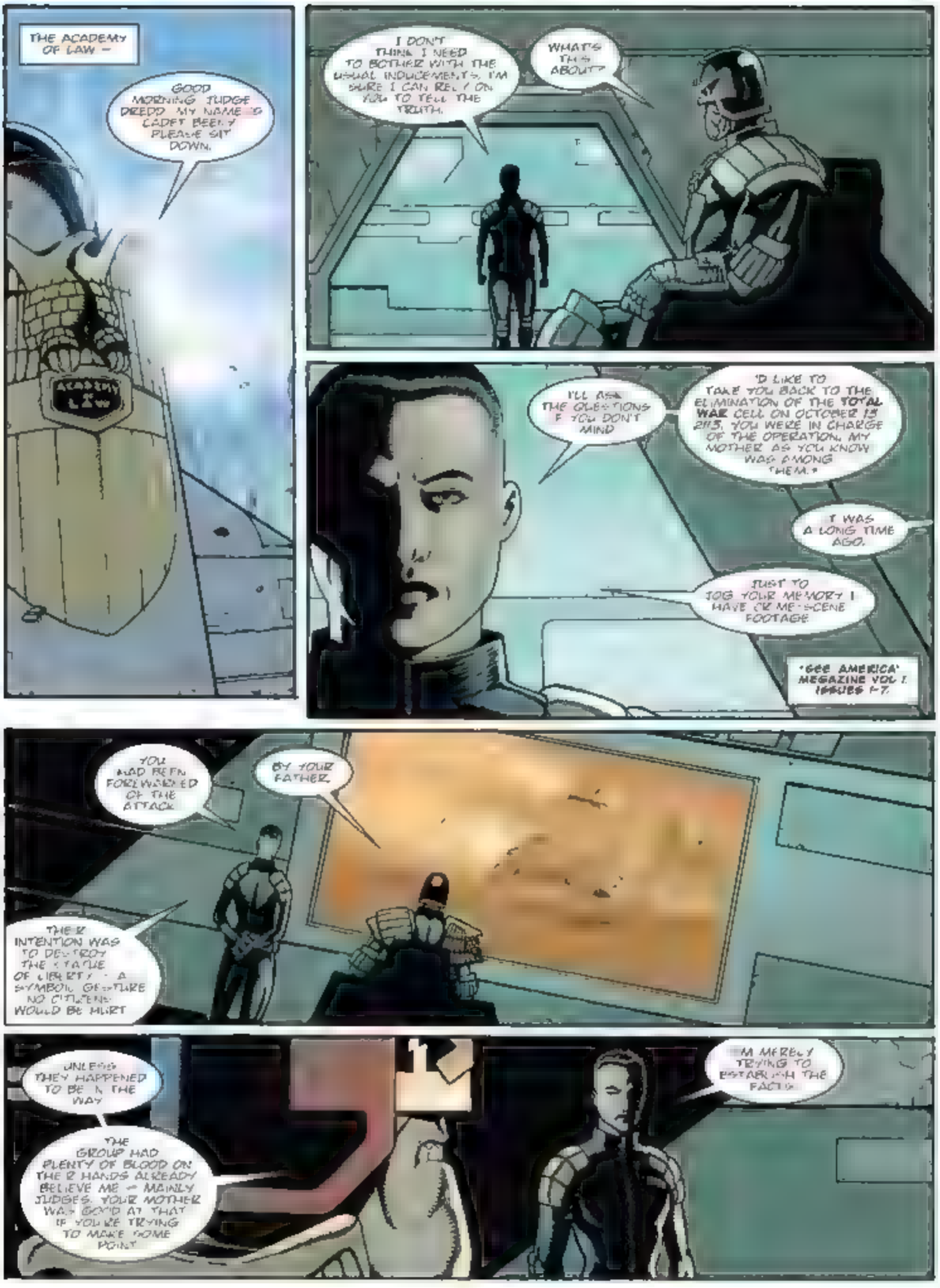
BE BRAVE CHILD.
HE WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS I SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD KEEP IT FROM YOU.
YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE HERE WITH US AMERICA YOUR FATHER DID THE BEST THING, EVEN IF FOR THE WRONG REASONS WORK HARD. APPLY YOURSELF — MAKE HIM PROUD OF YOU
Y-YES SIR I WILL
GIVE HER AN HOUR FOR GRIEVING THEN BEST IF SHE JOINS THE OTHER CADETS
FANATICS LIKE VICTOR PORTNOY, THEY DON'T FORGET AND THEY DON'T GO AWAY YOU'VE BECOME A KIND OF TALISMAN TO THEM SOONER OR LATER THEY WOULD GET TO YOU
THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE I KNOW YOU CAN BE SAFE FROM THEM
UDAM 73
AT LEAST THE JUDGES DON'T PRETEND
YES THEY MUST CHANGE BUT NOT BY MURDER — NOT BY BOMBING NOT BY DECEPTION AND LIES BUT FROM WITHIN. WITHIN THEIR HEARTS AND THEIR CONSCIENCES

AND I BELIEVE, I TRULY BELIEVE, THAT ONE GOOD JUDGE IS WORTH A THOUSAND PROTEST MARCHES
I BELIEVE IN YOU, MY DARLING

CADET

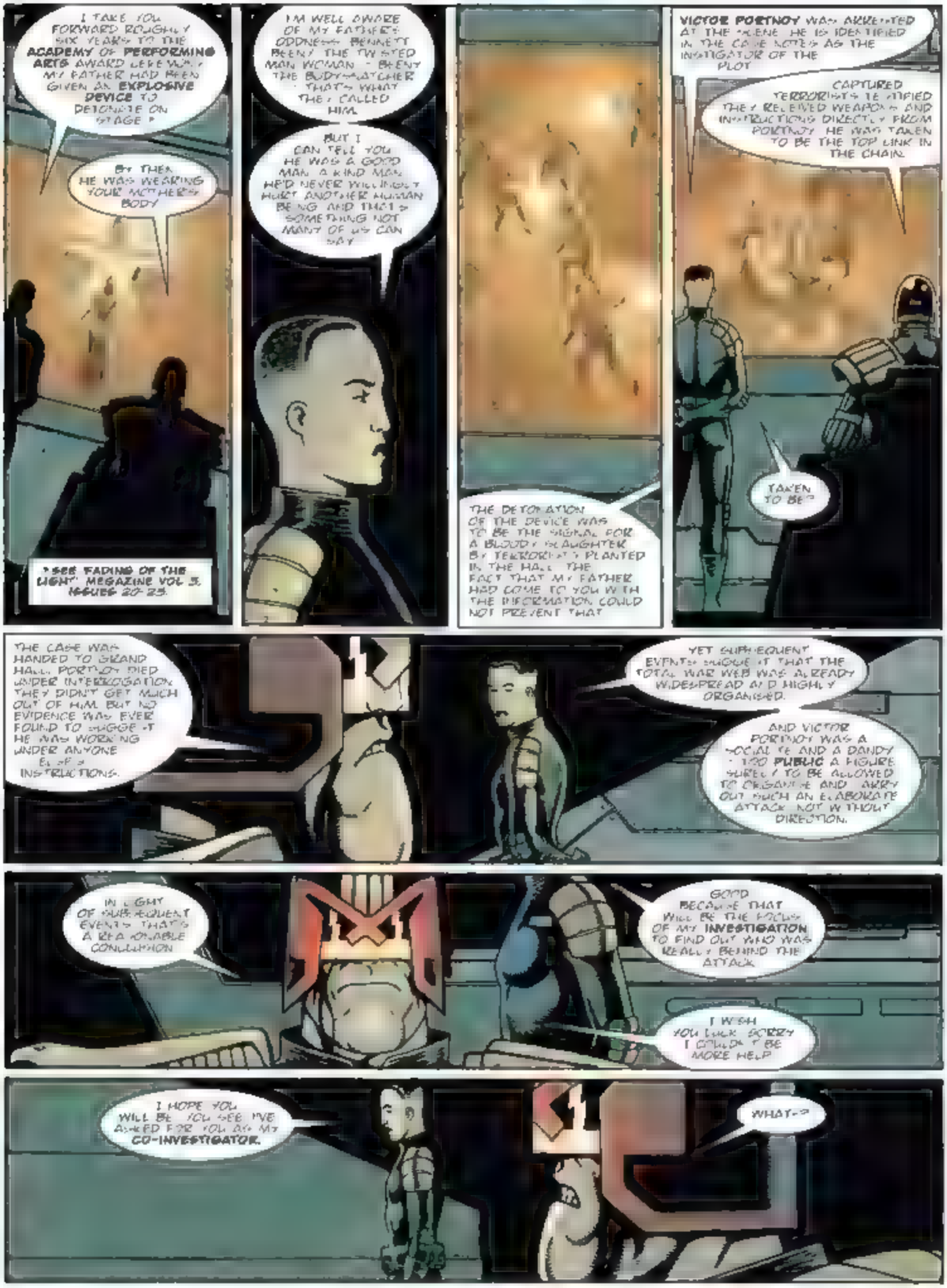
Script: John Wagner
Art: Colin MacNeil
Colour: Chris Blythe
Letters: Annie Parkhouse

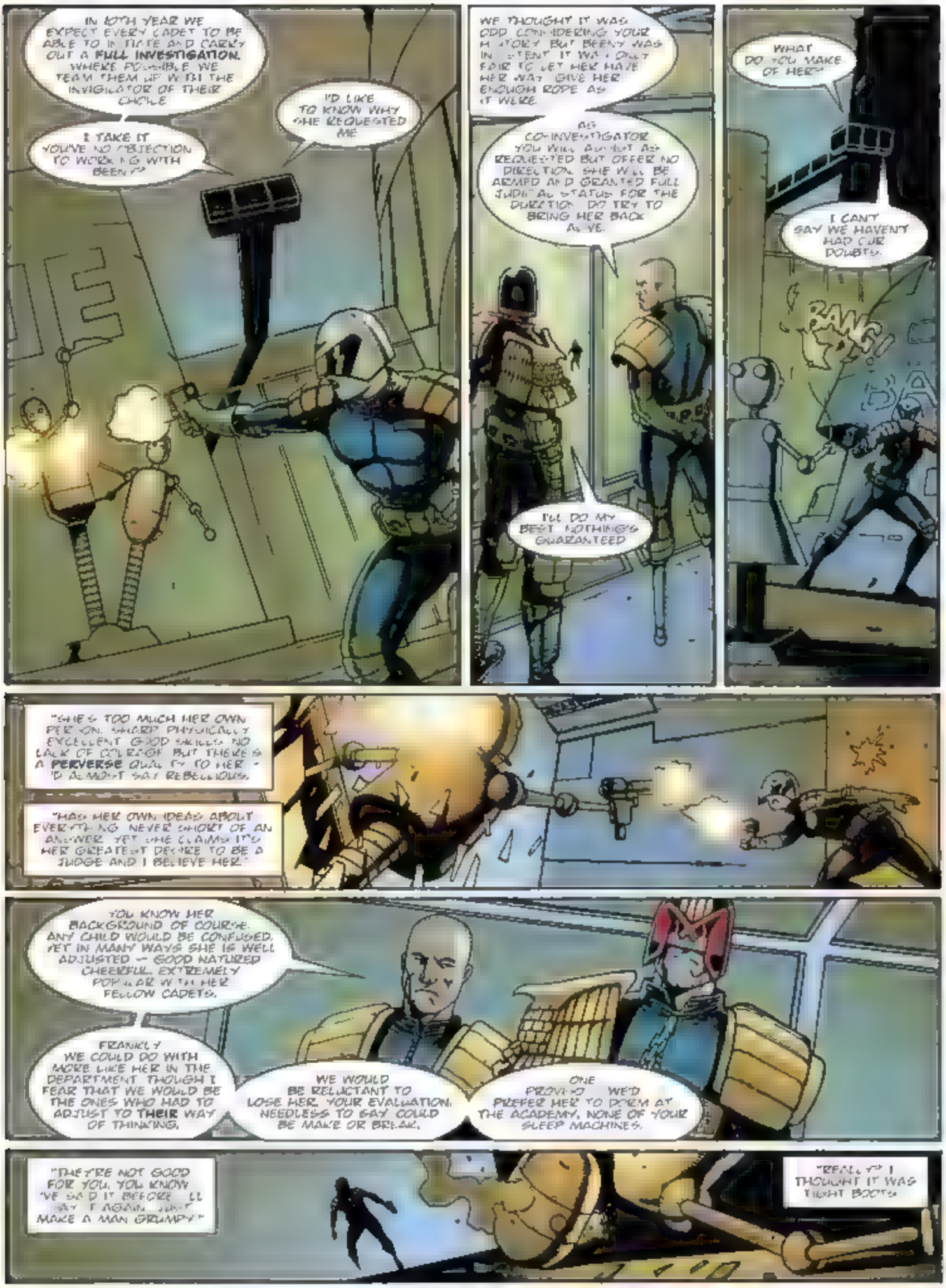
Originally published in *Judge Dredd Megazine* 250-252


THE ACADEMY OF LAW —
GOOD MORNING JUDGE DREDD MY NAME IS CADET BEENY PLEASE SIT DOWN.
ACADEMY OF LAW
I DON'T THINK I NEED TO BOTHER WITH THE USUAL INDUCEMENTS, I'M SURE I CAN RELY ON YOU TO TELL THE TRUTH.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS IF YOU DON'T MIND
I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU BACK TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE TOTAL WAR CELL ON OCTOBER 13 2113. YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION. MY MOTHER AS YOU KNOW WAS AMONG THEM.
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
JUST TO JOG YOUR MEMORY I HAVE CCTV FOOTAGE
'GEE AMERICA' MEGAZINE VOL 1 ISSUES 1-7.
YOU HAD BEEN FOREWARNED OF THE ATTACK
BY YOUR FATHER.
THEIR INTENTION WAS TO DESTROY THE STATUE OF LIBERTY - A SYMBOLIC GESTURE NO CITIZENS WOULD BE HURT
UNLESS THEY HAPPENED TO BE IN THE WAY
THE GROUP HAD PLENTY OF BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS ALREADY BELIEVE ME - MAINLY JUDGES. YOUR MOTHER WAS GOOD AT THAT IF YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE SOME POINT
I'M MERELY TRYING TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS.

YOU HAD JUDGES STATIONED CLOSE BY AND IN THE STATUE YOU FORCED THEIR PODS DOWN IN THE SQUARE
IT IS CLEAR FROM THE FOOTAGE THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THE TERRORISTS ATTEMPTED TO SURRENDER
IT'S A SET-UP!
NO CONTEST! NO CONTEST!
FIRE AT WILL!
IT WAS, IN EFFECT AN EXECUTION.
BEENY

THEY BROKE THE LAW THEY PAID THE PRICE WHAT POINT ARE YOU MAKING?
YOU WANTED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THEM TO DEMONSTRATE THAT ARMED RESISTANCE WAS POINTLESS AND ULTIMATELY FATAL
WHAT DID YOU ACHIEVE? YEARS LATER TOTAL WAR HAD GROWN STRONG ENOUGH TO LAUNCH A NUCLEAR ATTACK ON THE CITY
SO YOU DIDN'T STOP ANYTHING. INDEED YOU MAY EVEN HAVE ENCOURAGED THAT GROWTH BY DEMONSTRATING NOT THE FUTILITY OF RESISTANCE BUT ITS NECESSITY IN THE FACE OF A BRUTAL AND REPRESSIVE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.
IT'S A POINT OF VIEW
I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOURTH TERRORIST BADLY WOUNDED NO DOUBT CONFUSED SHE COULD HAVE PRESENTED LITTLE DANGER TO YOU.
SHE WAS STILL ARMED
YOUR EXAMPLE HAD BEEN MADE SURELY YOU HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH MY FATHER THAT SHE WOULD NOT BE KILLED
YOU LET HER GET TO THE VERY FOOT OF THE STATUE BEFORE YOU HAD HER SHOT DOWN.
IF YOU READ THE CASE NOTES YOU'LL KNOW A CLEARER RE HAD BEEN ORDERED THE JUDGE WHO FIXED THE FACT WAS DISCIPLINED
YES I HAVE THE REPORT HERE JUDGE BARCLAY NOTES SUBSEQUENTLY I ISSUED A VERBAL REPRIMAND
A VERBAL REPRIMAND FOR A WOMAN WHO KILLED DOESN'T SEEM QUITE BALANCED SOMEHOW.
I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF WE DID THE RIGHT THING LETTING YOU ENLIST IN THE ACADEMY RECENTLY IS THIS THE LINE OF QUESTIONING PERTINENT TO YOUR INVESTIGATION?
NOT DIRECTLY I JUST THOUGHT IT OUGHT TO BE SAID BESIDE NEVER LET YOUR PERP GET TOO COMFORTABLE IN THE CHAIR - THAT'S HOW WE TEACH IS ISN'T IT?
YOU'VE GOT SOME GRIT KID COMING AT ME LIKE THIS GET TO THE POINT MY TIME'S LIMITED


I TAKE YOU FORWARD ROUGHLY SIX YEARS TO THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS AWARD CEREMONY. MY FATHER HAD BEEN GIVEN AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE TO DETONATE ON STAGE.
BY THEN HE WAS WEARING YOUR MOTHER'S BODY
*SEE FADING OF THE LIGHT' MEGAZINE VOL 3, ISSUES 20-23.
I'M WELL AWARE OF MY FATHER'S ODDNESS. BENNETT BEENY THE TWISTED MAN WOMAN - BEENY THE BODY-SNATCHER - THAT'S WHAT THEY CALLED HIM.
BUT I CAN TELL YOU HE WAS A GOOD MAN. A KIND MAN. HE'D NEVER WILLINGLY HURT ANOTHER HUMAN BEING AND THAT'S SOMETHING NOT MANY OF US CAN SAY.
THE DETONATION OF THE DEVICE WAS TO BE THE SIGNAL FOR A BLOODY SLAUGHTER BY TERRORISTS PLANTED IN THE HALL. THE FACT THAT MY FATHER HAD COME TO YOU WITH THE INFORMATION COULD NOT PREVENT THAT.
VICTOR PORTNOY WAS ARRESTED AT THE SCENE. HE IS IDENTIFIED IN THE CASE NOTES AS THE INSTIGATOR OF THE PLOT.
CAPTURED TERRORISTS TESTIFIED THEY RECEIVED WEAPONS AND INSTRUCTIONS DIRECTLY FROM PORTNOY. HE WAS TAKEN TO BE THE TOP LINK IN THE CHAIN.
TAKEN TO BE?
THE CASE WAS HANDED TO SCOTLAND YARD. PORTNOY DIED UNDER INTERROGATION. THEY DIDN'T GET MUCH OUT OF HIM, BUT NO EVIDENCE WAS EVER FOUND TO SUGGEST HE WAS WORKING UNDER ANYONE ELSE'S INSTRUCTIONS.
YET SUBSEQUENT EVENTS SUGGEST THAT THE TOTAL WAR WEB WAS ALREADY WIDESPREAD AND HIGHLY ORGANISED.
AND VICTOR PORTNOY WAS A SOCIALITE AND A DANDY - TOO PUBLIC A FIGURE SURELY TO BE ALLOWED TO ORGANISE AND CARRY OUT SUCH AN ELABORATE ATTACK NOT WITHOUT DIRECTION.
IN LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS THAT'S A REASONABLE CONCLUSION
GOOD BECAUSE THAT WILL BE THE FOCUS OF MY INVESTIGATION TO FIND OUT WHO WAS REALLY BEHIND THE ATTACK.
I WISH YOU LUCK. SORRY I COULDN'T BE MORE HELP.
I HOPE YOU WILL BE. YOU SEE I'VE ASKED FOR YOU AS MY CO-INVESTIGATOR.
WHAT-?


IN 10TH YEAR WE EXPECT EVERY CADET TO BE ABLE TO INITIATE AND CARRY OUT A FULL INVESTIGATION. WHERE POSSIBLE WE TEAM THEM UP WITH THE INVIGILATOR OF THEIR CHOICE
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY SHE REQUESTED ME
I TAKE IT YOU'VE NO OBJECTION TO WORKING WITH BEEN?
WE THOUGHT IT WAS ODD CONSIDERING YOUR HISTORY BUT BEENY WAS INSISTENT IT WAS ONLY FAIR TO LET HER HAVE HER WAY GIVE HER ENOUGH ROPE AS IT WERE.
AS CO-INVESTIGATOR YOU WILL ACCOMPANY AS REQUESTED BUT OFFER NO DIRECTION. SHE WILL BE ARMED AND GRANTED FULL JUDICIAL STATUS FOR THE DURATION. DO TRY TO BRING HER BACK ALIVE.
I'LL DO MY BEST NOTHING'S GUARANTEED
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF HER?
I CAN'T SAY WE HAVEN'T HAD OUR DOUBTS.
BANG!
"SHE'S TOO MUCH HER OWN PERSON. SHORT PHYSICALLY EXCELLENT GOOD SKILLS NO LACK OF COURAGE BUT THERE'S A PERVERSE QUALITY TO HER - I'D ALMOST SAY REBELLIOUS.
"HAS HER OWN IDEAS ABOUT EVERYTHING NEVER SHORT OF AN ANSWER YET SHE CLAIMS IT'S HER GREATEST DEVICE TO BE A JUDGE AND I BELIEVE HER."
YOU KNOW HER BACKGROUND OF COURSE. ANY CHILD WOULD BE CONFUSED. YET IN MANY WAYS SHE IS WELL ADJUSTED -- GOOD NATURED CHEERFUL. EXTREMELY POPULAR WITH HER FELLOW CADETS.
FRANKLY WE COULD DO WITH MORE LIKE HER IN THE DEPARTMENT THOUGH I FEAR THAT WE WOULD BE THE ONES WHO HAD TO ADJUST TO THEIR WAY OF THINKING.
WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO LOSE HER. YOUR EVALUATION. NEEDLESS TO SAY COULD BE MAKE OR BREAK.
ONE PROVISO WE'D PREFER HER TO DOZE AT THE ACADEMY, NONE OF YOUR SLEEP MACHINES.
"THEY'RE NOT GOOD FOR YOU, YOU KNOW I'VE SAID IT BEFORE I'LL SAY IT AGAIN JUST MAKE A MAN GRUMPY."
"REALLY? I THOUGHT IT WAS TIGHT BOOTS."

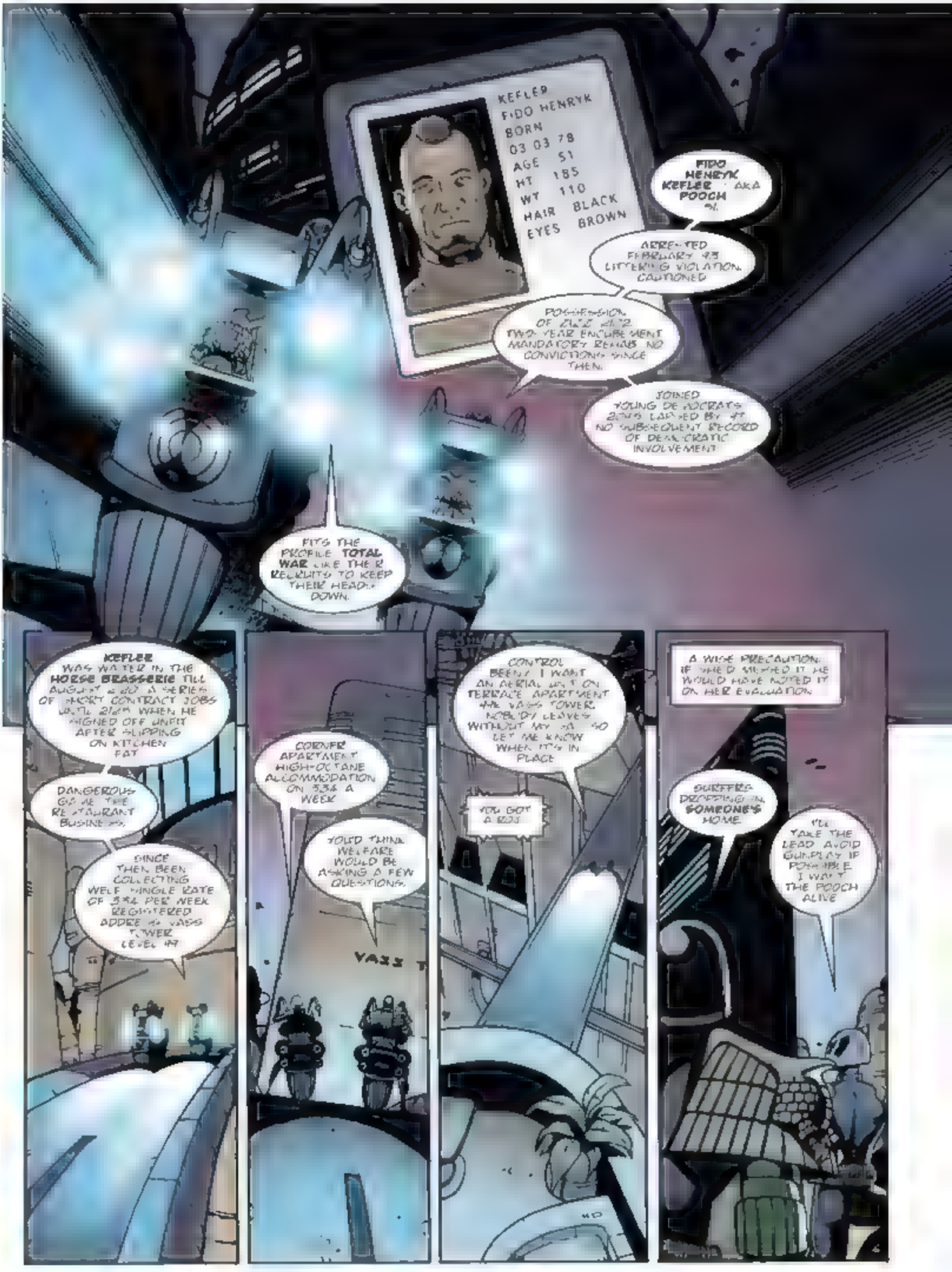
THE STREETS AREN'T A CITY SIMULATION. THE PEOPLE ARE REAL. THE JUDGEMENTS YOU MAKE COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. THEIRS OR YOURS.
IF WE SEE A CRIME WE CAN'T IGNORE IT. IT MAY BE DANGEROUS. STAY ALERT. JOIN TO YOUR OWN SAFETY AT ALL TIMES.
YES SIR.
BUT IT WAS PAPERWORK AT FIRST
PILE UPON PILE A SEEMINGLY UNENDING STREAM LOOKING INTO EVERY FACET OF VICTOR PORTNOY'S LIFE
PHONE RECORDS FROM HIS PLACE IN CANADIA.
THEY ALREADY WENT THROUGH THAT
AND THEY GOT IT WRONG LET'S GET IT RIGHT
GETTING STIFF LET'S TAKE AN HOUR OR TWO THE STREETS I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT REAL JUDGING'S ABOUT
I'D PREFER IT IF WE JUST KEPT AT IT IF YOU DON'T MIND SIR.
HE WONDERED IF SHE WAS DOING IT TO GET AT HIM. HIS DISLIKE OF PAPERWORK WAS A RUNNING JOKE IN THE DEPARTMENT.
IF SHE WAS IT WAS WORKING.

MENU
MUNCE
ESTICATED MUNCE
IF STILL MUNCE
WHY ME BEEN?
SORRY?
THE WAY YOU SEE IT I KILLED YOUR MOTHER, WHY CHOOSE ME?
IF YOU COME DOWN TO IT, YES YOU DID KILL HER. YOU WOULD HAVE STOPPED EARLIER BEFORE ANYONE GOT HURT BUT YOU WANTED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE.
BUT THEN IF I WAS GOING TO BLAME ANYONE I'D HAVE TO BLAME THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT IT'S THE WAY WE WORK IT'S THE WAY WE ARE OUR WHOLE CULTURE IS WRONG
AND YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE THAT?
YES I AM.
I TOLD YOU ONCE YOU WERE BAD. I DON'T THINK THAT ANYMORE YOU'RE NOT BAD YOU'RE JUST WHAT THE SYSTEM MADE YOU.
AS FAR AS THIS CASE GOES YOU HAVE AN INMATE KNOWLEDGE YOU'RE A FRUSTRATE INVESTIGATOR AND I'LL TELL YOU BIG TIME THAT THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION NEVER GOT AT THE TRUTH. SO I BELIEVE YOU CAN HELP ME I REALLY WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWERS.
FAIR ENOUGH.
LATER ON, HE RODE WITH HER BACK TO THE ACADEMY. THE STREETS COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR A 10TH YEAR ON HER OWN.
ANY UNIT VICINITY COLEK PLAZA. WE HAVE A REPORT OF GUNSHOTS.
DREDD I'LL TAKE IT
HE HAD TO ADMIT THERE WAS A MODICUM OF PLEASURE IN TAKING THE CALL BACK ON HOME GROUND --
COLEK
PLAZA
SEE HOW SMART SHE WAS ? A REAL SITUATION -
WAIT HERE.

I'LL GET TO YOU BUSTER!
BDOM
SPANG
BUT SHE HANDLED HERSELF WELL. WHAT LITTLE SHE HAD TO DO HE SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT SHE WOULD.
HE'S TAKEN THREE HITS. TWO IN THE CHEST. CAN'T STOP THE BLEEDING. I'VE CALLED IN THE MED WAGON.
THIS ONE'S GONE NICE TRY CADET
DRUG FEUD. TWO LESS OF THE SCUM TO WORRY ABOUT. AIN'T THAT RIGHT ENRIQUE?
SHUT YOUR STINKIN' MOUTH!
DON'T TELL ME - I WAS TOO HARD ON THOSE DIRTWADS. THEY'RE VICTIMS OF AN UNCARING SOCIETY. ALL THEY NEEDED WAS A LITTLE UNDERSTANDING.
WON'T GET ANY FROM ME.
THEY'RE PEDDLERS OF POISON. THEY RUIN PEOPLE'S LIVES. THEY GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED.
HMMMPH.
GET SOME SLEEP. I NEED YOU SHARP IN THE MORNING.
CRIME DOESN'T HAVE A BEDTIME. I'LL GRAB TEA IN THE MACHINE IF I NEED IT.
HE HAD TO HAND IT TO HER. SHE HAD SOME NERVE.
ACADEMY OF LAW

I'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE...
WHAT?
PORTNOY'S CARD RECEIPTS FROM MONDAY IN EVERY MONTH HE EATS IN THE HORSE BRASSERIE SECTOR 84 THAT GOES BACK ALMOST FIVE YEARS
THEN LOOK AT THE DAYS IN THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE ATTACK HE EATS THERE FREQUENTLY THREE TIMES ALONE IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE CEREMONY
THE BRASSERIE'S WAY OUT OF HIS WAY NO BIG REPUTATION FOR FOOD E THER - AND PORTNOY REMEMBE S RESTAURANT CRITIC FOR THE ARK.
HE EVER REVIEW IT?
NEGATIVE THE GRUMMAND DID - GAVE IT TWO OUT OF TEN SAID IT WAS PROBABLY FIT FOR A HORSE
SO WHY DOES PORTNOY REGULARLY EAT IN A PLACE HE'D HATE UNLESS HE'S MEETING SOMEBODY BRILLIANT
TEN YEARS AGO WON'T BE ANY SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE AND THE MANAGERIE'S BEEN CLOSED SINCE 22
THIS AIN'T GOING TO BE EASY BEEKY WHAT'S YOUR MOVE
YOU WERE MANAGER AT THE HORSE BRASSERIE BETWEEN 2115 AND 2118
THEM FUX TRYIN' TA SAY I KILLED THE BUSINESS THEY GET A LOOK WHO KNOWS HOW TA LOOK THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM.
WELL I SHOWED 'EM - GOT OUT - BUILT THE YAH TO LOUNGE INTA EASY VICTOR II. - PREMIER EATERIE AN WHERE ARE THE 3 DOWN, THE DUDS WHERE THEIR FOOD OUGHTA GONE THEM FUX
SURE THAT'S VICTOR PORTNOY HE USED TO BE A HORSE REGULAR - BEATS ME WHY - MEAN, HE'S SUPPOSED TO KNOW SOMETHIN' - I COULDA TOLD HIM DON'T EAT HERE
DO YOU RECOGNISE THE MAN?
WHY DID HE MEET WITH WHEN HE WENT THERE?
HIM? NOBODY ALWAYS ATE ALONE SAT THERE MAIN NOTE - LIKE HE WAS WRITIN A REVIEW OR SOMETHIN' - NEVER HEARD NO REVIEW THOUGH. ANYWAY - COULDA TOLD HIM WHAT TO WRITE ONE WORD HORSE SHIT
AND NOBODY JOINED HIM? SAT AT THE NEXT TABLE SAY?
NAH WE WASN'T LIKE BUSY SOMETIMES HE WAS THE ONLY ONE IN ALWAYS SAT IN THE CORNER BOOTH. ON HIS OWN.
WHAT ABOUT STAFF? ANY ONE PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY WITH HIM?
THERE WAS POOCH. SURE POOCH. SEEN 'EM LAUGHIN AN' JOKIN OFTEN ENOUGH COULDA HE HAD PLENTY OF TIME ON HIS HANDS LIKE I SAID WE WASN'T BUSY
POOCH?
THE WATER HE WAS THERE WHEN I STARTED STAYED EIGHT TILL THE DUMP CLOSED.

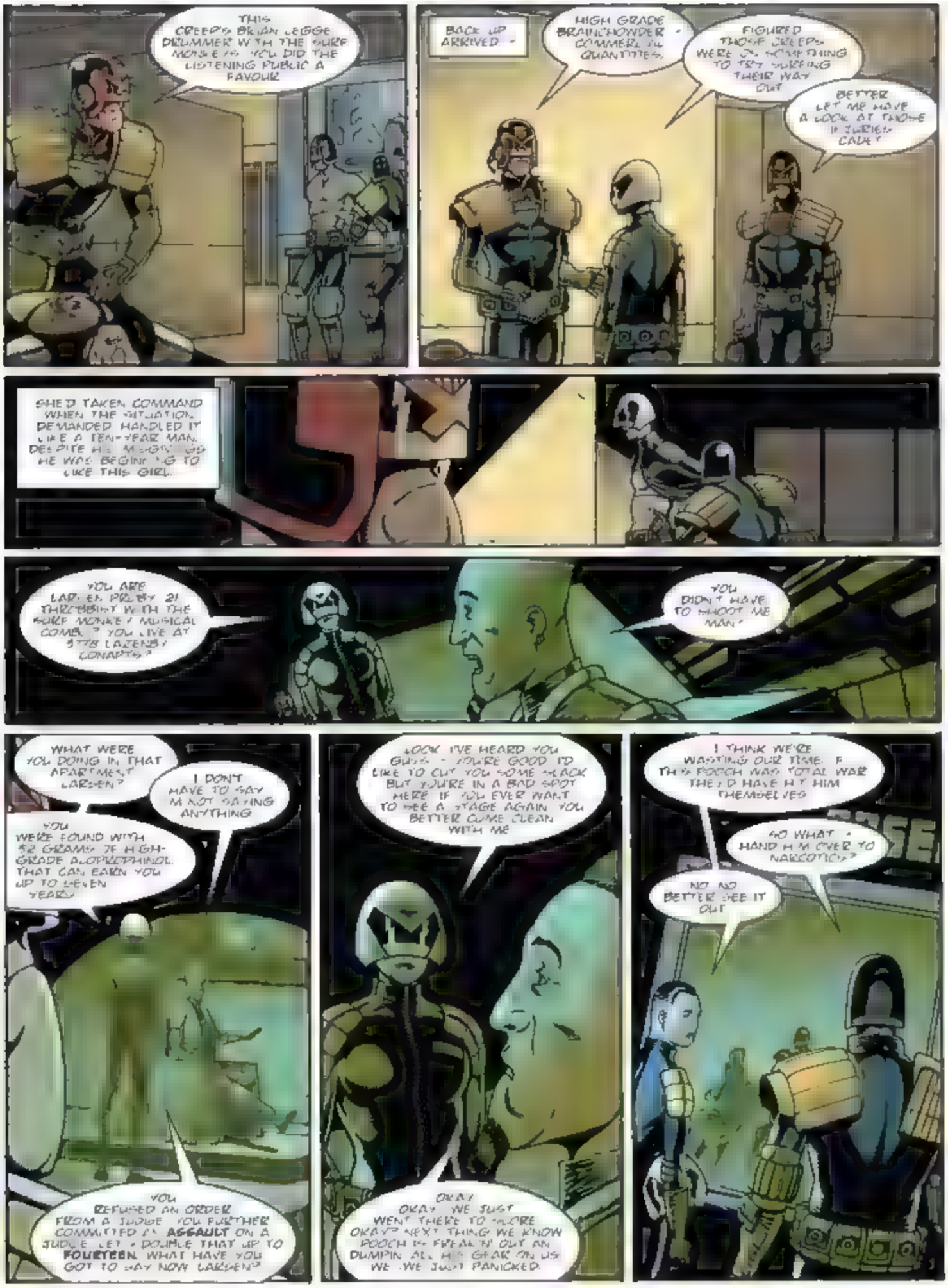
HEY JOBEY OL POOCH FROM THE HORSE - WHAT WAS HIS LAST NAME?
HUNNH?
THIS IS JOBEY MY BROTHER GOTTA EXCUSE HIM HE AIN'T ALL THERE - FREAK IN COOK WENT BUGFUX WITH A CLEAVER BACK IN '87 WHEN WE HAD THE HOTTIE BAR.
HEY GO ON YA BIG LUNK GET THAT IN A FREEZER BEFORE IT SPOILS.
FIDO! THAT'S T FIDO KEFLER FIDO - POOCH - GET T' DON'T ASK ME WHERE HE IS NOW
WE'LL FIND HIM
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU MR DELONG - YOU HAVE OCCASION TO TALK WITH FORTNOY? DRUGS - BUSINESS MAYBE?
ME? NO PERSONALLY I COULDN'T STAND THE GUY - FREAKIN FRUITBALL AN YOU CAN CHECK ALL THE LIE DETECTORS YA LIKE
WELL IT'S SOMETHING. LET'S FIND THE POOCH.
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? WHADDA YOU GOT THERE?
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN WITH THAT?


KEFLER
FIDO HENRYK
BORN
03 03 78
AGE 51
HT 185
WT 110
HAIR BLACK
EYES BROWN
FIDO HENRYK KEFLER · AKA POOCH
ARRESTED FEBRUARY 93 LITTERING VIOLATION. CAUTIONED
POSSESSION OF ZAZ 21.2 TWO YEAR ENCUBEMENT MANDATORY REHAB NO CONVICTIONS SINCE THEN.
JOINED YOUNG DEMOCRATS 2075 LAPSED BY 77 NO SUBSEQUENT RECORD OF DEMOCRATIC INVOLVEMENT
FITS THE PROFILE TOTAL WAR LIKE THEIR RECRUITS TO KEEP THEIR HEADS DOWN.
KEFLER WAS WAITER IN THE HORSE BRASSERIE TILL AUGUST '20 A SERIES OF SHORT CONTRACT JOBS UNTIL 2127 WHEN HE RESIGNED OFF UNFIT AFTER SLIPPING ON KITCHEN FAT
DANGEROUS GO ME THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS
SINCE THEN BEEN COLLECTING WELF SINGLE RATE OF 3.84 PER WEEK REGISTERED ADDRE 44 VASS TOWER LEVEL 44
CORNER APARTMENT HIGH-OCTANE ACCOMMODATION ON 3.34 A WEEK
YOUD THINK WELFARE WOULD BE ASKING A FEW QUESTIONS.
VASS T
CONTROL BEEN / I WANT AN AERIAL UNIT ON TERRACE APARTMENT 44 VASS TOWER. NOBODY LEAVES WITHOUT MY OK SO LET ME KNOW WHEN IT'S IN PLACE
YOU GOT A ROJ
A WISE PRECAUTION. IF SHE'D MENTIONED IT HE WOULD HAVE NOTED IT ON HER EVALUATION
SURFERS DROPPING IN SOMEONE'S HOME
I'LL TAKE THE LEAD AVOID GUNPLAY IF POSSIBLE I WANT THE POOCH ALIVE

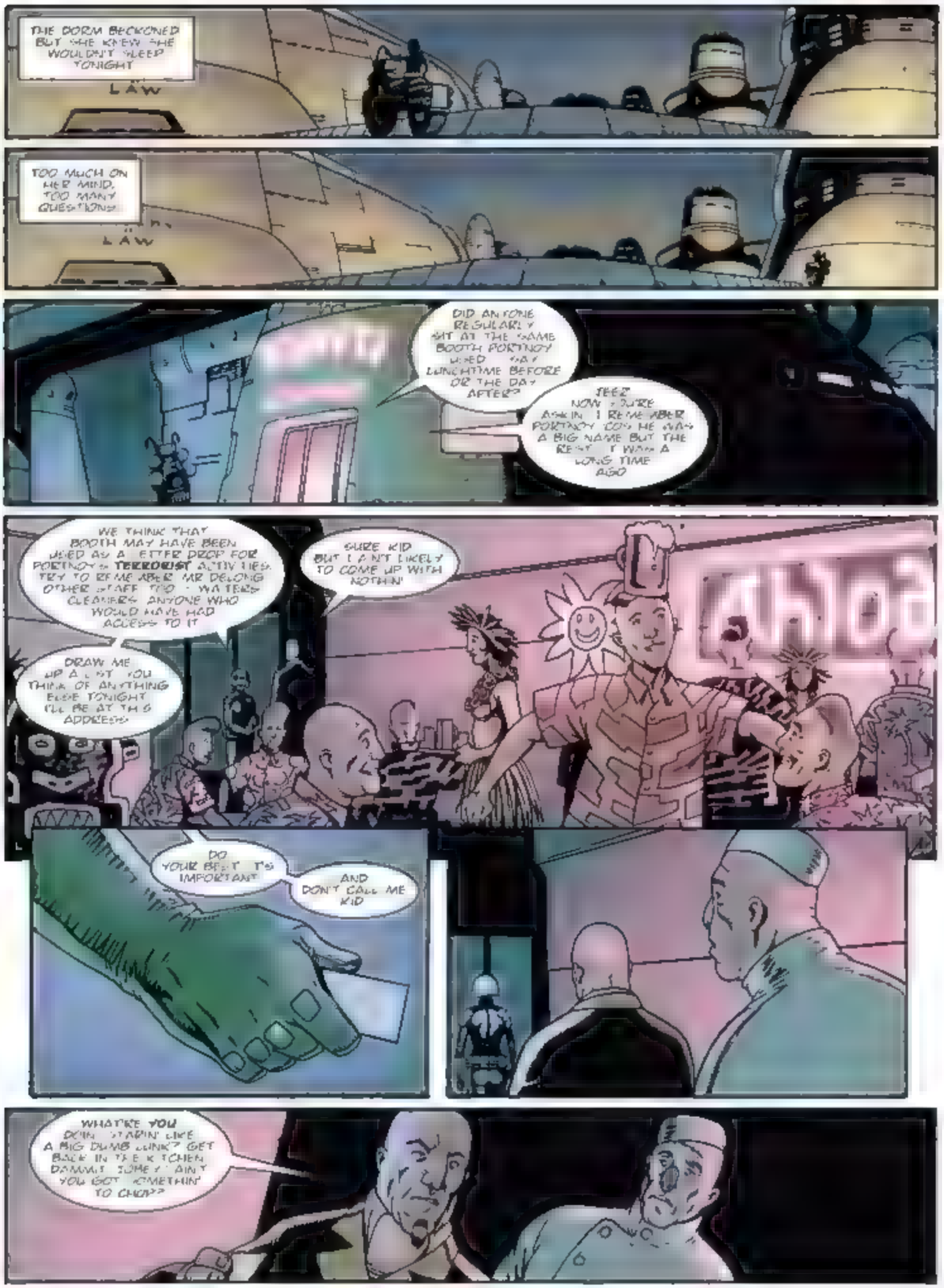
HEY POOCH WE GOT TWO JAYS COMIN THIS WAY
JOVIS H!
YUP COMIN RIGHT FOR THE DOOR IT'S YOU THEY WANT MAN
HERE TAKE THIS TAKE T ALL GET OUTA HERE I'LL CALL YOU
FREAKIN H STALL 'EM FER CHRISSAKE
I REGRET THE OCCUPANT IS NOT ME AT PRESENT MAY I TAKE A MESSAGE?
TELL MR KEPLER I WANT TO SPEAK TO HIM NOW TELL HIM TO OPEN THE DOOR OR I'LL OPEN IT
PERHAPS I DIDN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR -
PERHAPS I DIDN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR!
STOP! JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ORDERS! RETURN TO THE APARTMENT!
HOLY
HE'S GOT IT SECURITY LOCKED!
GETTING CHARGES STAND BACK!
I LEAD FROM HERE
BUT -
NO BUTS! YOU'RE STILL A CADET BERNY - I'M PULLING RANK! YOU STAY BEHIND ME

PKOW
PKOW
PKOW
BLAM
UNHHH!
WUMP!
STOP IN THE NAME OF - UNGGG!
THUD
THUD

STOP! STOP OR I SHOOT!
BDAM!
AHHHHH!
SPARK
CONTROL WE NEED A MED UNIT AT 4TH & 44 ST. THAT'S IMMEDIATE
IT WUETSSS—!
YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE
YOU ALL RIGHT?
FEELS LIKE I BROKE A RIB. HOW ABOUT YOU?
JUST DELIVERED I THINK
KEFLER! THIS IS THE LAW! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS RAISED!
ARE ARE THOSE BAD GUYS GONE YET?
NICE TRY POOCH BUT I'M NOT BUYING.


THIS CREEP'S BRIAN JEGGE DRUMMER WITH THE SURF MONKEYS - YOU DID THE LISTENING PUBLIC A FAVOUR
BACK UP ARRIVED -
HIGH GRADE BRAINPOWDER - COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES,
FIGURED THOSE CREEPS WERE JUST HOARDING TO TRY MUSCLING THEIR WAY OUT
BETTER LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT THOSE IF JUDGE CADEY
SHE'D TAKEN COMMAND WHEN THE SITUATION DEMANDED HANDLED IT LIKE A TEN-YEAR MAN. DESPITE HIS MISGIVINGS HE WAS BEGINNING TO LIKE THIS GIRL.
YOU ARE LARSEN PERRY 21 THROBBING WITH THE SURF MONKEYS MUSICAL COMBO ? YOU LIVE AT 9778 LAZENBY CONAPT?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SHOOT ME MAN!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THAT APARTMENT LARSEN?
I DON'T HAVE TO SAY NOT SAYING ANYTHING
YOU WERE FOUND WITH 52 GRAMS OF HIGH-GRADE ALOPECTAPHINOL. THAT CAN EARN YOU UP TO SEVEN YEARS
YOU REFUSED AN ORDER FROM A JUDGE YOU FURTHER COMMITTED AN **ASSAULT** ON A JUDGE LET'S DOUBLE THAT UP TO **FOURTEEN**. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY NOW LARSEN?
LOOK I'VE HEARD YOU GUYS - YOU'RE GOOD I'D LIKE TO CUT YOU SOME SLACK BUT YOU'RE IN A BAD SPOT HERE IF YOU EVER WANT TO SEE A STAGE AGAIN YOU BETTER COME CLEAN WITH ME
OKAY OKAY WE JUST WENT THERE TO SCORE OKAY? NEXT THING WE KNOW POOCH IS PEELIN' OUT AN DUMPIN ALL HIS GEAR ON US WE WE JUST PANICKED.
I THINK WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME. IF THIS POOCH WAS TOTAL WAR THEY'D HAVE HIT HIM THEMSELVES
SO WHAT - HAND HIM OVER TO NARCOTICS?
NO NO BETTER SEE IT OUT

SHE GRILLED KEPLER RELENTLESSLY GOING BACK OVER THE SAME GROUND TIME AND AGAIN, PLUMBING FOR A CHINK IN HIS STORY.
THE BRASSERIE HAD A POOR REPUTATION WHAT DID YOU THINK BROUGHT A RESTAURANT CRITIC LIKE VICTOR PORTNOY THERE SO OFTEN -
UNLESS YOU WERE GIVING HIM HIS INSTRUCTIONS A BOMB HERE AN ASSASSINATION THERE - WHATEVER TOTAL WAR NEEDED.
STICK THIS STUFF ABOUT TOTAL WAR IN NO TERRORIST
AND MR BERT DELONG THE MANAGER - WHAT DID HE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT?
I DUNNO NOTHIN MUCH. I TOLD YOU. BERT COULDN'T STAND THE GUY HE WAS ALWAYS SAYIN'
IN THE END ALL THEY HAD WAS A SORDID LITTLE DRUG OPERATION AND A LONG RUNNING WELFARE CON.
THE HORSE BRASSERIE COULD HAVE BEEN A DEAD LETTER DROP YOU THOUGHT OF THAT?
YES OF COURSE
IF SO YOU'LL NEED TO CHECK ON OTHER CUSTOMERS CLEANING STAFF - A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE YOU MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO TRACE ANYONE COULD HAVE LEFT SOMETHING AT THAT TABLE FOR VICTOR PORTNOY
IF EVERY CASE WORKED OUT THE WAY WE WANTED BEENY THIS JOB WOULD BE A LOT EASIER. MAYBE IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP SOME TRAILS JUST GROW TOO COLD.
IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION I'LL BE PUTTING IN A POSITIVE EVALUATION.
THANKS BUT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS TOO LONG I CAN'T GIVE UP NOW
THE LINK IS THE HORSE BRA HERE - I'M SURE YOU WERE RIGHT WE'VE JUST GOT TO FIGURE OUT HOW. THE ANSWER'S THERE - SOMETHING WE MISSED SOMETHING WE'RE JUST NOT SEEING.
FINE I AM THEN.
STRANGE TO BE WORKING WITH HIM. THE MAN WHO IF HE HADN'T PULLED THE TRIGGER HAD STILL BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR HER MOTHER'S DEATH A STRANGER STILL NOT TO HATE HIM.
BUT TEN YEARS IN THE ACADEMY HAD GIVEN HER A DIFFERENT UNDERSTANDING. IN MANY WAYS SHE'D COME TO SEE THE WORLD THROUGH HIS EYES. "GIVE ME THE CHILD AT FIVE"


THE DORM BECKONED BUT SHE KNEW SHE WOULDN'T SLEEP TONIGHT
LAW
TOO MUCH ON HER MIND, TOO MANY QUESTIONS
LAW
DID ANYONE REGULARLY SIT AT THE SAME BOOTH PORTNOY USED TO DAY LUNCHTIME BEFORE OR THE DAY AFTER?
JEEZ NOW YOU'RE ASKIN I REMEMBER PORTNOY COS HE WAS A BIG NAME BUT THE REST I WAS A LONG TIME AGO
WE THINK THAT BOOTH MAY HAVE BEEN USED AS A LETTER DROP FOR PORTNOY'S TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. TRY TO REMEMBER MR DELONG OTHER STAFF TOO - WAITERS CLEANERS ANYONE WHO WOULD HAVE HAD ACCESS TO IT
SURE KID BUT I AIN'T LIKELY TO COME UP WITH NOTHIN'
DRAW ME UP A LIST YOU THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE TONIGHT I'LL BE AT THIS ADDRESS
DO YOUR BEST IT'S IMPORTANT
AND DON'T CALL ME KID
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' STARIN' LIKE A BIG DUMB CUNT? GET BACK IN THE KITCHEN DAMMIT SOMEY' AIN'T YOU GOT SOMETHIN' TO CHOP?

MIGS AM
HELLO ROBERT
GOT A LOT OF THINKING TO DO FIGURED I'D DO IT BETTER HERE THAN IN THE DORM.
NICE TO SEE THE OLD PLACE
IVE KEPT IT JUST AS YOUR FATHER LEFT IT
SCALEY SCALEY'S STILL ALIVE? OH WOW
THAT ONE WILL PROBABLY OUTLIVE ALL OF US. MIGS
My darling America.
Soon I'll be gone, but I promise I'll always be watching you The love that I feel for you can never die
HOT MALT AND BLOOD IS JUST LIKE YOU USED TO HAVE
THANKS ROBERT JUST THE THING TO GET THE OLD BRAIN CELLS WORKING
Why did I agree to carry a bomb to the awards ceremony? It was madness But I was hurt, angry Your mother had been right - the Judges were an evil we had to fight in any way we could
That anger blinded me to the truth -- that the real evil was men like Victor Portnov

VICTOR PORTNOY WAS BITTER ABOUT WHAT DAD DID - TO MY MOTHER HIS WHOLE TONE - THE WORDS HE USED - IT WAS ALMOST LIKE HE'D BEEN IN LOVE WITH HER
THAT WAS THE IMPRESSION HE GAVE MISS.
BUT PORTNOY WAS GAY UNLESS THAT WAS JUST SOMETHING HE PUT ON FOR PROTEST RADICAL REASONS
NO THAT DOESN'T PLAY PORTNOY WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF MEN PLUS - AND HE HAD THAT BIG AFFAIR WITH WITH ROCK HUDSON / AND WE HAVE TAPES OF HIM FROM SIX OTHER FORMER LOVERS ALL MALE
STRANGE THEN THAT ANGER IN HIS TONE
DAD THOUGHT THEY'D TARGET ME BECAUSE OF HIM THAT'S WHY HE ENLISTED ME IN THE ACADEMY HE THOUGHT I COULD SUBVERT THE WHOLE SYSTEM FROM WITHIN -
AND YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THE TROUBLE THAT'S CAUSED ME NOTHING'S PRIVATE THERE YOU KNOW
IF YOUR FATHER HAD KNOWN M SURE HE WOULD HAVE OMITTED THOSE SENTIMENTS
And I believe, I truly believe, that one good Judge is worth a thousand protest marches.
I believe in you, my darling
HE DIDN'T WRITE TH - DID HE ROBERT?
M SORRY MISS?
DAD WAS TOO FAR GONE BY THEN, THE DEGENERATION HAD EATEN AWAY HIS NERVOUS SYSTEM. HE WAS INCAPABLE OF USING THE MACHINE
YOU WROTE IT DIDN'T YOU?
I MERELY PUT INTO WORDS WHAT HE WANTED TO SAY M SURE HE WOULD HAVE APPROVED.
AND FOR THE RECORD I BELIEVE IN YOU TOO MISS
THANK YOU ROBERT

NIGHT SAM.
LATER BOSS.
HEY YOU WANT TO CHECK ON THAT BROTHER OF YOURS HE'S ACTIN REAL FUNNY IN THERE.
YOU CRAZY FOOL! STANDING THERE WATCHIN HER - DROOLIN LIKE A DOG IN HEAT YOU WANT TO GIVE THE WHOLE GAME AWAY?
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THERE THAT PICTURE AGAIN
PUT IT DOWN!
WANNNN ERRR!
THAT'S ALL OVER! FINISHED YOU CAN'T HAVE HER! NOBODY'S GOING TO HAVE HER
WANNNN ERRR!
CHUNK-K-K.

IT HAD BEEN NAGGING AT HIM MOST OF THE NIGHT A SENSE OF DÉJÀ VU. SOMETHING WAS NOT RIGHT. SOMETHING THEY'D MISSED.
A THOUGHT THAT TURNED AND TWISTED IN HIS BRAIN UNTIL IT FINALLY CRYSTALLISED INTO THE BROTHER. JOBEY DELONG. THE VIRTUAL MORON. OR WAS HE?
HE'D BEEN SO CONVINCING THEY HADN'T BOTHERED TO QUESTION HIM. DIDN'T THINK THEY'D GET ANY SENSE.
POOR SIMPLE JOBEY DELONG. WHO'D SUSPECT HIM OF BEING VICTOR PORTNOY'S TOTAL WAR CONTACT OF MASTER-MINDING THE ACADEMY AWARDS MASSACRE? HE HAD THE PERFECT COVER.
MARCH 27TH 2111 - COOK ELMA BEALE SENTENCED TO TWELVE YEARS ATTEMPTED MURDER OF ASSISTANT MANAGER DELONG JOBEY HOTTIE BAR ON SILVER STREET. BEALE WENT BERSERK WITH A CLEAVER...
CHECK THE MEDICAL REPORT
DELONG'S LIFE SAVED AFTER A FOUR HOUR OPERATION. METAL PLATE INSERTED
...LEAVING HIM WITH SEVERE MENTAL IMPAIRMENT AND APPROXIMATE IQ OF A THREE YEAR OLD.
THAT BLOW THAT THEORY
BEALE ALSO RECEIVED FOUR YEARS CONCURRENT FOR GRIEVOUS WOUNDING OF MANAGER BERTRAM DELONG. BERTRAM DELONG'S THROAT WAS SLASHED...
WAIT A MINUTE..
INJURIES NOT LIFE-THREATENING BUT JOB'S VOICE BOX WAS SMASHED - REPLACED BY A WARNER VOX 47 IMPLANT
DELONG HAD WORN A NECKTIE. THEY COULDN'T SEE THE SCAR. AND AN ARTIFICIAL VOICE WAS NEVER GOING TO SHOW FALSE ON THE LIE DETECTOR.
EVERYTHING HE'D TOLD THEM COULD BE A LIE
BEENY OUGHT TO KNOW IT WAS HER INVESTIGATION.
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT BE'S TIME TO HAUL HIM IN. IF BERTRAM DELONG WAS VICTOR PORTNOY'S TOTAL WAR CONTACT SHE'D GET TO THE TRUTH THIS TIME

WHAT NEXT?
RE-QUESTION ALL PORTNOY'S ACQUAINTANCES - RELATIVES - FORMER LOVERS. IT COULD TAKE MONTHS.
NO. CONCENTRATE ON THE HORSE BRASSERIE. THAT WAS STILL THEIR BEST LEAD. THERE ONLY LEAD. THAT'S WHERE PORTNOY HAD MET HIS CONTACT.
MAYBE THERE WAS A FIFTH TERRORIST IN MY MOTHER'S CELL. SOMEONE THEY NEVER FOUND OUT ABOUT.
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT MISS AM?
PORTNOY THE WAY HE SPOKE ABOUT MY MOTHER. LIKE HE WAS IN LOVE. BUT PORTNOY WAS GAY.
SO IF HE WASN'T IN LOVE WITH HER MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE WAS. PORTNOY'S SUPERIOR PORTNOY WAS JUST YOU KNOW MOUTHING HIS WORDS.
IT'S POSSIBLE.
THING IS WHY USE DAD TO CARRY THE BOMB AT ALL? THEY DIDN'T NEED HIM - IF ANYTHING HE WAS A HINDRANCE AND A RISK. THE REASON IT HAD TO BE PERSONAL. SOMEONE WANTED DAD DEAD.
SAY THIS GUY LOVED MY MOTHER. HATED MY FATHER FOR WHAT HE DID. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSE TO HER. MAYBE IN THE SAME CELL.
OR I DON'T KNOW. IT'S ALL SPINNING ROUND IN MY HEAD.
I IMAGINE THAT'S PART OF THE FASCINATION OF THE WORK. SOLVING THE CONUNDRUMS.
I'VE MADE UP THE BED IN YOUR OLD ROOM MISS IF YOU FEEL LIKE SLEEPING.
I'M TOO WOUND UP TO SLEEP. THINK I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND.

BEENY NO SHE HASN'T CHECKED IN.
I DROPPED HER OFF AT 23:00 APPROX
SHE NEVER ENTERED THE BUILDING WE ASSUMED SHE WAS WITH YOU.
DID SHE LEAVE A MESSAGE?
NO.. NOTHING HERE
DAMN!
CONTROL PUT OUT A CALL FOR CADET AMERICA BEENY SHE'S TO CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY
CONTROL TO BEENY BE ADVISED
POOR MRS WILSON. THEY NEVER FOUND THE REST OF HER"
JUST THE TORSO I DID WARN HER NOT TO WALK TO THE HYMART
HER SISTER COLLECTED HER POSSESSIONS AFTER THE FUNERAL APPEARED TO BLAME ME FOR EVERYTHING QUITE AN UNPLEASANT WOMAN THOUGHT
THIS WHOLE FAMILY SEEMS BLIGHTED BY TRAGEDY EVERY ONE WE TOUCH.

HIS MUSIC ROOM. DAD ALWAYS KEPT IT LOCKED. I'D LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK.
ALL THE SAME I'D LIKE TO LOOK
THERE'S NOTHING THAT WOULD INTEREST YOU, MISS
EXCUSE ME MISS AMI, BUT IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU DIDN'T GO IN THERE.
YOU'RE INTRIGUING ME. WHAT IS IT YOU DON'T WANT ME TO SEE?
PLEASE MISS LEAVE YOUR FATHER HIS SECRETS. HE WOULDN'T WANT TH S HE REALLY WOULDN'T
THE KEY ROBERT
PLEASE MISS AMI
STOP
LOOKING FOR BEENY
AT THIS TIME? WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS?

OH MY -
WHEN HE TOOK YOUR MOTHER'S BODY HE HAD HIS OWN SENT TO THE TAXIDERMIST
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE KEPT IT I THOUGHT IT STRANGE AND I'M A ROBOT. OUR FATHER WAS A DEEPLY TROUBLED MAN.

BRINGGGGGGGG
ER
DELONG! THIS IS JUDGE DREDD! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
HE'S FULLY ANIMATED HE SINGS IN HIS OWN VOICE WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR HIM?
NO I DON'T THINK SO ROBERT
HE HAD A VOICE BOX FITTED
YOUR MOTHER'S TERROR AT FRIENDS GHOST HIM IRONICALLY IT ENABLED HIM TO PROTECT HER LATER THE KIDS DETECTIVES COULDN'T CATCH HIM OUT HE WAS VERY PROUD OF THAT
A VOICE BOX HOLD ON - THE MANAGER AT THE HOTEL HE KEPT HIS THROAT COVERED
COULD IT BE ? NO I'M JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS ALL THE SAME
SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO CHECK ROBERT
KASHAH

SHUNKKK
DROP IT JOBEY!
GAR
DROKK!
AMERICA BEENY — NO 4 RIDLEY ESTATE 39957 889 3441
MR DELONG I TAKE IT YOU'VE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING YOU HAD TO TELL ME.
I WOULDN'T RAISE THAT GUN IF I WERE YOU M'A BETTER SHOT THAN YOU AND QUICKER TOO
I'LL DEAL WITH THIS MESS.
CONTROL TO CADET AMERICA BEENY ADVISE WHEREABOUTS REPEAT
ROBERT GET OUT OF THE WAY-!
ZANGGGGG
UHHH-!

NO ANSWER FROM BEENY!
CONTROL! GET UNITS TO NO 4 RIDLEY ESTATE!
YOU'RE SO LIKE HER SO LIKE HER
BLEE BLEE BLEE BLEE BLEE
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME MR DELONG.
I LOVED HER. WE LOVED HER ME AND THAT IDIOT BROTHER OF MINE BUT WHO WOULDN'T? SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL.
THEN HE - DAMN I STILL CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO SAY HIS NAME.
SHE TRUSTED HIM AND HE TURNED HER IN. AND WHEN SHE WAS DEAD HE BOUGHT HER AND PUT HER BODY ON LIKE A COAT
SO YOU WERE THE FIFTH MEMBER?
AND BEFORE HE DID THAT HE VIOLATED HER. THAT SICK MOTHER SONOVABITCH. I SWORE THEN THAT I'D PAY HIM BACK
YOU LOOK SO LIKE HER. BUT YOU'RE NOT. HE'S IN YOU. HIS VILE SEED.
NO YOU DON'T
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO DIE!

DO YOUR KNEEPADS KEEP YOUR ANKLES WARM WHEN THAT COLD DECEMBER BLOWS?
WHAT ?
DO YOU WEAR 'EM WHEN YOU'RE NAKED SO YOUR NOBBLES NEVER SHOW?
GEUDDAMN-!
AHHHHHHH
OH GOD OH GOD! WHATVE YOU DONE TO ME -?
TRY NOT TO MOVE I'LL CALL THE MEDS
YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF DELONG
SMASH!

ROBERT MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY TRIPPED SOME TIME DELAY THAT SYNCHED HIM ON. HOW HE CAME TO WALK IN HERE I DON'T KNOW -
HE PROMISED HE'D LOOK AFTER ME. I GUESS HE DID
I WOULDN'T TRY PUTTING THAT IN YOUR CASE SUMMARY BEENY
THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE ANTI-TERROR UNIT ! SUSPECT DELONG IS NO LONGER HEAVILY INVOLVED WITH TOTAL WAR BUT HE CAN STILL TELL US A LOT YOU'LL BE KEPT INFORMED OF COURSE.
GET THIS FREAKIN THING OUT YOU FUX -
YOU SHOULD HAVE INFORMED THE ACADEMY WHERE YOU WERE GOING BEENY THAT'S A BLACK MARK AGAINST YOU
JUST DIDN'T THINK TOO WRAPPED UP IN THE CASE
I'M PLEASED TO SAY THE REST OF MY EVALUATION WILL BE ENTIRELY POSITIVE I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE STREETS IF THAT'S WHAT YOU DECIDE YOU WANT
THAT'S WHAT I WANT I HAVE TO MAKE IT THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO.
MAYBE WE DO NEED CHANGE. I DON'T KNOW YOU GET SO CLOSE TO IT
JUST DON'T TRY TO DO IT ALL TOO FAST
YOUR BUDDY'S A WRITE OFF
POOR ROBERT HARD NOT TO THINK OF HIM AS HUMAN.
HE WAS THE LAST LINK WITH MY FAMILY AS MUCH AS IT EVER WAS A FAMILY ALL GONE NOW...
WE'RE YOUR FAMILY NOW

JUDGE DREDD: CADET (PART 1) ORIGINAL SCRIPT

PAGE 1

1. External, Academy of Law.

CAPTION: THE ACADEMY OF LAW –

FROM ACAD: GOOD MORNING, JUDGE DREDD. MY NAME IS CADET BEENY. PLEASE SIT DOWN.

2. Longish view. In a mocked-up interrogation cube DREDD sits in the chair. Cadet AMERICA BEENY (see 'Fading of the Light') faces him in the role of interrogator. She doesn't wear her helmet. She's 14/15 now, looking quite a lot like her mother, with the same determined tilt to her chin.

AMI: I DON'T THINK I NEED TO BOTHER WITH THE USUAL INDUCEMENTS. I'M SURE I CAN RELY ON YOU TO TELL THE TRUTH.

DREDD: WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

AMI: I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS IF YOU DON'T MIND.

3. Close in. Good view of Ami here. (MATT – I'VE JUST PUT IN AN APPROXIMATE YEAR BELOW. CAN YOU CHECK WHEN IT [illegible] HAVE BEEN?)

AMI: I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU BACK TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE TOTAL WAR CELL ON OCTOBER 13, 2113. YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION. MY MOTHER, AS YOU KNOW, WAS AMONG THEM.

DREDD: IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

AMI: JUST TO JOG YOUR MEMORY I HAVE CRIME-SCENE FOOTAGE.

4. On a big wall screen we see footage of the terror cell attack from America – the vehicles being brought down in the square, where judges are waiting.

AMI: YOU HAD BEEN FOREWARNED OF THE ATTACK.

DREDD: BY YOUR FATTHER.

AMI: THEIR INTENTION WAS TO DESTROY THE STATUE OF LIBERTY – A SYMBOLIC GESTURE, NO CITIZENS WOULD BE HURT.

DREDD: UNLESS THEY HAPPENED TO BE IN THE WAY.

5. Headshot of Dredd in fg. He's not happy about all this.

DREDD: THE GROUP HAD PLENTY OF BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS ALREADY, BELIEVE ME – MAINLY JUDGES. YOUR MOTHER WAS GOOD AT THAT. IF YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE SOME POINT –

AMI: I'M MERELY TRYING TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS.

PAGE 2

1. Ami in fg backed by the screen, showing Kurd trying to surrender.

AMI: YOU HAD JUDGES STATIONED CLOSE BY AND IN THE STATUE. YOU FORCED THEM DOWN IN THE SQUARE.

LINK: IT IS CLEAR FROM THE FOOTAGE THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THE TERRORISTS ATTEMPTED TO SURRENDER.

KURD(jag): IT'S A SET-UP!

LINK: NO CONTEST! NO CONTEST!

2. Dredd gives the order. This and what follows is from the footage, but you don't have to let that tie you down.

DREDD: FIRE AT WILL!

3/4/5/6. Reprise the violent death of Kurd and the others/a vehicle being blown apart/America hit or crawling from the wreckage. Insert a headshot of cadet Ami over it.

AMI: IT WAS, IN EFFECT, AN EXECUTION.

PAGE 3

1. Dredd's not giving an inch, but neither is Ami.

DREDD: THEY BROKE THE LAW, THEY PAID THE PRICE. WHAT POINT ARE YOU MAKING?

AMI: YOU WANTED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THEM – TO DEMONSTRATE THAT ARMED RESISTANCE WAS POINTLESS AND, ULTIMATELY, FATAL.

LINK: WHAT DID YOU ACHIEVE? YEARS LATER TOTAL WAR HAD GROWN STRONG ENOUGH TO LAUNCH A NUCLEAR ATTACK ON THE CITY.

2. Headshot, Ami. Is there anger beneath her controlled exterior?

AMI: SO YOU DIDN'T STOP ANYTHING. INDEED, YOU MAY EVEN HAVE ENCOURAGED THAT GROWTH BY DEMONSTRATING NOT THE FUTILITY OF RESISTANCE BUT ITS NECESSITY IN THE FACE OF A BRUTAL AND REPRESSIVE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

3. Headshot, Dredd. It's not a point of view he agrees with.

DREDD: IT'S A POINT OF VIEW.

4. Ami turns back to the screen, now showing America at the foot of the statue.

AMI: I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOURTH TERRORIST. BADLY WOUNDED, NO DOUBT CONFUSED, SHE COULD HAVE PRESENTED LITTLE DANGER TO YOU.

DREDD: SHE WAS STILL ARMED.

AMI: YOUR EXAMPLE HAD BEEN MADE, SURELY. YOU HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH MY FATHER THAT SHE WOULD NOT BE KILLED.

5. Just the screen. The bullet hits America.

OFF: YOU LET HER GET TO THE VERY FOOT OF THE STATUE BEFORE YOU HAD HER SHOT DOWN.

OFF: IF YOU READ THE CASE NOTES YOU'LL KNOW A CEASEFIRE HAD BEEN ORDERED, THE JUDGE WHO FIRED THE SHOT WAS DISCIPLINED.

6. Ami reads from the report. Dredd is beginning to dislike her.

AMI: YES, I HAVE THE REPORT HERE. JUDGE BASIL NOTT – SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A VERBAL REPRIMAND.

LINK: A VERBAL REPRIMAND FOR A WOMAN'S LIFE – DOESN'T SEEM QUITE BALANCED SOMEHOW.

DREDD: I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF WE DID THE RIGHT THING LETTING YOU ENLIST IN THE ACADEMY, BEENY. IS THIS LINE OF QUESTIONING PERTINENT TO YOUR INVESTIGATION?

7. Ami faces Dredd with just a hint of a smile playing on her lips. Dredd is momentarily speechless.

AMI: NOT DIRECTLY. I JUST THOUGHT IT OUGHT TO BE SAID. BESIDES, NEVER LET YOUR PERP GET TOO COMFORTABLE IN THE CHAIR – THAT'S HOW WE TEACH IT, ISN'T IT?

8. Head – or growl and chin – shot of Dredd.

DREDD: YOU'VE GOT SOME GRIT, KID, COMING ON TO ME LIKE THIS. GET TO THE POINT. MY TIME'S LIMITED.

PAGE 4

1. On screen now is an image of Benny in America's body hobbling with his stick towards the stage at the awards ceremony in 'Fading of the Light'. The screen shows him in close focus. There's a scornful twist to Dredd's mouth as he watches.

AMI: I TAKE YOU FORWARD ROUGHLY SIX YEARS TO THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS AWARD CEREMONY. MY FATHER HAD BEEN GIVEN AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE TO DETONATE ON STAGE.

DREDD: BY THEN HE WAS WEARING YOUR MOTHER'S BODY.

2. Ami's not taking that without reply.

AMI: I'M WELL AWARE OF MY FATHER'S ODDNESS. BENNETT BEENY, THE TWISTED MAN/WOMAN – BEENY THE BODYSNATCHER – THAT'S WHAT THEY CALLED HIM.

LINK: BUT I CAN TELL YOU HE WAS A GOOD MAN, A KIND MAN. HE'D NEVER WILLINGLY HURT ANOTHER HUMAN BEING, AND THAT'S SOMETHING NOT MANY OF US CAN SAY.

3. The screen shows the slaughter in the hall.

OFF: THE DETONATION OF THE DEVICE WAS TO BE THE SIGNAL FOR A BLOODY SLAUGHTER BY TERRORISTS PLANTED IN THE HALL. THE FACT THAT MY FATHER HAD COME TO YOU WITH THE INFORMATION COULD NOT PREVENT THAT.

4. On screen a headshot of Victor Portnoy.

AMI: VICTOR PORTNOY WAS ARRESTED AT THE SCENE. HE IS IDENTIFIED IN THE CASE NOTES AS THE INSTIGATOR OF THE PLOT.

DREDD: CAPTURED TERRORISTS TESTIFIED THEY RECEIVED WEAPONS AND INSTRUCTIONS DIRECTLY FROM PORTNOY. HE WAS TAKEN TO BE THE TOP LINK IN THE CHAIN.

AMI: TAKEN TO BE?

5. Just Dredd and Ami.

DREDD: THE CASE WAS HANDED TO GRAND HALL. PORTNOY DIED UNDER INTERROGATION. THEY DIDN'T GET MUCH OUT OF HIM. BUT NO EVIDENCE WAS EVER FOUND TO SUGGEST HE WAS WORKING UNDER ANYONE ELSE'S INSTRUCTIONS.

AMI: YET SUBSEQUENT EVENTS SUGGEST THAT THE TOTAL WAR WEB WAS ALREADY WIDESPREAD AND HIGHLY ORGANISED.

LINK: AND VICTOR PORTNOY WAS A SOCIALITE AND A DANDY -- TOO PUBLIC A FIGURE SURELY TO BE ALLOWED TO ORGANISE AND CARRY OUT SUCH AN ELABORATE ATTACK, NOT WITHOUT DIRECTION.

6. Dredd thinks it over, agrees grudgingly. Ami wears a pugnacious expression.

DREDD: IN LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS, THAT'S A REASONABLE CONCLUSION.

AMI: GOOD. BECAUSE THAT WILL BE THE FOCUS OF MY INVESTIGATION, TO FIND OUT WHO WAS REALLY BEHIND THE ATTACK.

DREDD: I WISH YOU LUCK. SORRY I COULDN'T BE MORE HELP.

7. Dredd, face in fg, is not pleased.

AMI: I HOPE YOU WILL BE. YOU SEE, I'VE ASKED FOR YOU AS MY CO-INVESTIGATOR.

DREDD: WHAT --?

PAGE 5

1. Ami in fg, in a big mock-up of a city street in the academy. Dredd and the Deputy Principal of the Academy (invent him, there can be several Dep Ps) watch from a glassed observation point high in bg -- we've used something like this more than once, but I can't recall where refs would be). Ami is walking along, gun in hand, turning to fire at an armed knifeman in a woman's dress in an alley, hitting him as he stabs down at his victim (both robots).

DEPUTY P: IN 10TH YEAR WE EXPECT EVERY CADET TO BE ABLE TO INITIATE AND CARRY OUT A FULL INVESTIGATION. WHERE POSSIBLE, WE TEAM THEM UP WITH THE INVIGILATOR OF THEIR CHOICE.

LINK: I TAKE IT YOU'VE NO OBJECTION TO WORKING WITH BEENY?

DREDD: I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY SHE REQUESTED ME.

2. Dredd and Dep P in fg, looking down on the battlezone.

DEP P: WE THOUGHT IT WAS ODD, CONSIDERING YOUR HISTORY. BUT BEENY WAS INSISTENT. IT WAS ONLY FAIR TO LET HER HAVE HER WAY. GIVE HER ENOUGH ROPE, AS IT WERE...

LINK: AS CO-INVESTIGATOR YOU WILL ASSIST AS REQUESTED BUT OFFER NO DIRECTION. SHE WILL BE ARMED AND GRANTED FULL JUDICIAL STATUS FOR THE DURATION. DO TRY TO BRING HER BACK ALIVE.

DREDD: I'LL DO MY BEST. NOTHING'S GUARANTEED.

3. On Ami, walking along. A child behind and to the side pops a balloon -- BANG! She swivels, gun levelled, but holds

her fire. Dredd and Dep P's position can be seen high in bg.

DREDD: WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF HER?

DEP P: I CAN'T SAY WE HAVEN'T HAD OUR DOUBTS.

4. To front and other side a gunman smashes a bar window and fires at Ami. She ducks under the bullet – which makes a paintball splash on a wall or lamppost behind her. She fires herself, hitting the gunman.

OFF: SHE'S TOO MUCH HER OWN PERSON. SHARP, PHYSICALLY EXCELLENT, GOOD SKILLS, NO LACK OF COURAGE, BUT THERE'S A PERVERSE QUALITY TO HER – I'D ALMOST SAY REBELLIOUS.

LINK: HAS HER OWN IDEAS ABOUT EVERYTHING. NEVER SHORT OF AN ANSWER. YET SHE CLAIMS IT'S HER GREATEST DESIRE TO BE A JUDGE AND I BELIEVE HER.

5. Just Dep P and Dredd.

DEP P: YOU KNOW HER BACKGROUND, OF COURSE. ANY CHILD WOULD BE SCREWED UP. YET IN MANY WAYS SHE IS WELL ADJUSTED – GOOD NATURED, CHEERFUL, EXTREMELY POPULAR WITH HER FELLOW CADETS.

LINK: FRANKLY, WE COULD DO WITH MORE LIKE HER IN THE DEPARTMENT, THOUGH I FEAR THAT WE WOULD BE THE ONES WHO HAD TO ADJUST TO THEIR WAY OF THINKING.

LINK: WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO LOSE HER. YOUR EVALUATION, NEEDLESS TO SAY, COULD BE MAKE OR BREAK.

DREDD: WHEN DO YOU WANT IT?

DEP P: WHEN THE INVESTIGATION'S COMPLETED. WE'D PREFER HER TO DORM AT THE ACADEMY – NONE OF YOUR TEN MINUTES IN THE SLEEP MACHINE.

6. On Ami, moving along, gun ready, cautious.

OFF: THEY'RE NOT GOOD FOR YOU, YOU KNOW – SLEEP MACHINES. I'VE SAID IT BEFORE, I'LL SAY IT AGAIN. JUST MAKE A MAN GRUMPY.

OFF: I THOUGHT IT WAS TIGHT BOOTS.

PAGE 6

1. Ami, ready for action on the streets, stands by her bike (and Dredd's) as Dredd gives her a stern lecture. This is in the bike pool beneath the Academy.

DREDD: THE STREETS AREN'T A CITY SIMULATION. THE PEOPLE ARE REAL. THE JUDGEMENTS YOU MAKE COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH – THEIRS OR YOURS.

LINK: IF WE SEE A CRIME WE CAN'T IGNORE IT. IT MAY BE DANGEROUS. STAY ALERT, LOOK TO YOUR OWN SAFETY AT ALL TIMES.

AMI: YES, SIR.

2. External of the Grand Hall.

CAPTION: BUT IT WAS PAPERWORK AT FIRST.

3. Dredd and Ami have desks in a large investigations room, with computers, intercoms etc. Dredd sits at his, piled with stacks and boxes of paperwork, working on it glumly. Ami's desk is similarly stacked. A big mugshot of Portnoy is pinned up on a noticeboard by their desks. Ami brings up another small stack and plumps it down in front of him.

CAPTION: PILE UPON PILE, A SEEMINGLY LIMITLESS STREAM, LOOKING INTO EVERY FACET OF VICTOR PORTNOY'S LIFE.

AMI: PHONE RECORDS FROM HIS PLACE IN CANADIA.

DREDD: THEY ALREADY WENT THROUGH THESE.

AMI: AND THEY GOT IT WRONG. LET'S GET IT RIGHT.

4. On Dredd, working through the records grumpily.

5. Ami's hard at work on her own stacks. In bg Dredd rises, stretches.

DREDD: GETTING STIFF. LET'S TAKE AN HOUR ON THE STREETS, SHOW YOU WHAT REAL JUDGING'S ABOUT.

AMI: I'LL PASS. I'LL BE JUST OVER AT IT IF YOU DON'T MIND.

6. Dredd settles back down to his paperwork, even grumpier.

CAPTION: HE WONDERED IF SHE WAS DOING IT TO GET AT HIM. HIS DISLIKE OF PAPERWORK WAS A RUNNING JOKE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

CAPTION: IF SHE WAS, IT WAS WORKING.

PAGE 7

1. The canteen. Dredd and Ami sit opposite each other, eating their frugal repast.

DREDD: WHY ME, BEENY?

AMI: SORRY?

DREDD: THE WAY YOU SEE IT, I KILLED YOUR MOTHER. WHY CHOOSE ME?

2. An element of scepticism on Dredd's face.

AMI: IF YOU COME DOWN TO IT, YES, YOU DID KILL HER. YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED IT EARLIER, BEFORE ANYONE GOT HURT, BUT YOU WANTED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE.

LINK: BUT THEN IF I WAS GOING TO BLAME ANYONE I'D HAVE TO BLAME THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT. IT'S THE WAY WE WORK. IT'S THE WAY WE ARE. OUR WHOLE CULTURE IS WRONG.

DREDD: AND YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE THAT?

AMI: YES, I AM.

3. Ami sincere. Dredd frowns.

AMI: I TOLD YOU ONCE YOU WERE BAD. I DON'T THINK THAT ANYMORE. YOU'RE NOT BAD, YOU'RE JUST WHAT THE SYSTEM MADE YOU.

LINK: AS FAR AS THIS CASE GOES, YOU HAVE AN INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE. YOU'RE A FIRST RATE INVESTIGATOR AND IT'LL IRK YOU BIG TIME THAT THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION NEVER GOT AT THE TRUTH. SO I BELIEVE YOU CAN HELP ME. I REALLY WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWERS.

DREDD: FAIR ENOUGH.

4. They're riding through the streets, late at night. Dredd responds to a call.

CAPTION: LATER ON HE RODE WITH HER BACK TO THE ACADEMY. THE STREETS COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR A 10TH YEAR ON HER OWN.

JAG: ANY UNIT VICINITY COLEK PLAZA. WE HAVE A REPORT OF GUNSHOTS.

DREDD, DREDD! I'LL TAKE IT!

5. A gunfight has been going on in the square, three against two, a drug dealers' tiff. One man lies mortally wounded. The two closest to Dredd turn to face him as he speeds into the square, followed by Ami. Dredd's shots cut them down.

CAPTION: HE HAD TO ADMIT THERE WAS A MODICUM OF PLEASURE IN TAKING THE CALL. BACK ON HOME GROUND –

6. The other two guys are running away, across the square, leaving their dead buddy. Dredd parts company with Ami as they reach the two Dredd just shot, Ami leaping off her bike by one fallen man.

CAPTION: SEE HOW SMART SHE WAS IN A REAL SITUATION –

DREDD, WAIT HERE!

PAGE 8

1. Ami crouching/kneeling by one guy – clearly dead. But the other guy is just hit in the shoulder. He's face down and painfully reaching out towards his gun, which has fallen from his hand. A shot from Ami hits it and sends it skidding out of reach.

AMI: I'LL GET TO YOU, BUSTER!

FX: BDAM Spangggggg

2. Dredd returns, pushing the two perps who ran in front of him. One is clutching his shoulder/arm, where he's taken Dredd's bullet. Ami has cuffed the wounded perp to a railing or pole in bg. She's gone to the original victim, hands covered in blood as she tries to staunch the dying man's bleeding.

CAPTION: BUT SHE HANDLED HERSELF WELL, WHAT LITTLE SHE HAD TO DO. HE SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT SHE WOULD.

AMI: HE'S TAKEN THREE HITS, TWO IN THE GUT. CAN'T STOP THE BLEEDING. I'VE CALLED IN THE MED WAGON.

3. Med and catch wagons have arrived. The victim Ami was treating is loaded on a hover stretcher. The med examines him – it's too late, he's dead – and comments to Ami. She's using a cloth to wipe the blood off her hands. Beside her Dredd prods his charges toward the catch wagon judges, who have come to take them.

MED: THIS ONE'S GONE. NICE TRY.

DREDD: DRUG FEUD. TWO LESS OF THE SCUM TO WORRY ABOUT. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ENRIQUE?

[illegible]

4. Dredd and Ami ride along towards the Academy in bg.

DREDD: DON'T TELL ME – I WAS TOO HARD ON THOSE DIRTWADS. THEY'RE VICTIMS OF AN UNCARING SOCIETY. ALL THEY NEEDED WAS A LITTLE UNDERSTANDING.

AMI: WON'T GET IT FROM ME.

5. Dredd looks at her, grudgingly approving.

AMI: THEY'RE PEDDLERS OF POISON, THEY RUIN PEOPLE'S LIVES. THEY GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED.

DREDD: HMMPH.

6. Outside the Academy Dredd takes his leave.

AMI: GET SOME SLEEP. I NEED YOU SHARP IN THE MORNING.

DREDD: CRIME DOESN'T HAVE A BEDTIME. I'LL GRAB TEN IN THE MACHINE IF I NEED IT.

7. Dredd watches her ride into the Academy.

CAPTION: HE HAD TO HAND IT TO HER, SHE HAD SOME MOXY.

PAGE 9

1. Day. They're back at their desks. Dredd is working on the computer.

[illegible]

AMI: WHAT?

2. She comes over, looks over Dredd's shoulder. We don't have to see what's on the screen.

DREDD: PORTNOY'S CARD RECEIPTS. FIRST MONDAY IN EVERY MONTH HE EATS IN THE HORSE BRASSERIE, SECTOR 94. THAT GOES BACK ALMOST FIVE YEARS.

LINK: THEN LOOK AT THIS – IN THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE ATTACK HE EATS THERE FREQUENTLY, THREE TIMES ALONE IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE CEREMONY.

3. Same. Could be an external of the Grand Hall.

DREDD: THE BRASSERIE'S WAY OUT OF HIS WAY. NO BIG REPUTATION FOR FOOD EITHER – AND PORTNOY, REMEMBER, IS RESTAURANT CRITIC FOR THE ARK.

AMI: HE EVER REVIEW IT?

DREDD: NEGATIVE. THE GOURMAND DID – GAVE IT TWO OUT OF TEN. SAID IT WAS PROBABLY FIT FOR A HORSE.

AMI: SO WHY DOES PORTNOY REGULARLY EAT IN A PLACE HE HATES... UNLESS HE'S MEETING SOMEBODY! BRILLIANT!

4. Close on Dredd and Ami.

DREDD: TEN YEARS AGO. WON'T BE ANY SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE. AND THE BRASSERIE'S BEEN CLOSED SINCE '20.

LINK: THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY, BEENY, WHAT'S YOUR MOVE?

5. External, the gaudy frontage of a restaurant, TAHITI LOUNGE.

VOICE: YOU WERE MANAGER AT THE HORSE BRASSERIE BETWEEN 2115 AND 2119.

VOICE: THEM FUX! TRYIN' TA SAY I KILLED THE BUSINESS! THEY GET A COOK WHO KNOWS HOW TA COOK, THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM.

LINK: WELL, I SHOWED 'EM! I GOT OUT! I BUILT THE TAHITI LOUNGE INTA EAST SECTOR 115'S PREMIER EATERIE, AN' WHERE ARE THEY? DOWN THE DRAIN WHERE THEIR FOOD OUGHTA GONE! THEM FUX!

6. Go inside. Ami is interviewing the manager while Dredd stands watching. Manager, Bert, is fiftyish, big built, looking slightly too big for his gold sequinned lounge jacket. A rough diamond. He wears a cravat that covers the front of his neck. Ami shows him a picture of Portnoy.

AMI: DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS MAN?

BERT: SURE. THAT'S VICTOR PORTNOY. HE WAS A REGULAR – BEATS ME WHY. I MEAN, HE'S SUPPOSED TO KNOW SOMETHIN' – I COULDA TOLD HIM, DON'T EAT HERE.

AMI: WHO DID HE MEET WITH WHEN HE WENT THERE?

BERT: HIM? NOBODY. ALWAYS ATE ALONE. SAT THERE MAKIN' NOTES, LIKE HE WAS WRITIN' A REVIEW OR SOMETHIN'. I NEVER HEARDA NO REVIEW THOUGH. ANYWAY, I COULDA TOLD HIM WHAT TO WRITE. ONE WORD – HORSESHIT.

7. Ami frowns.

AMI: AND NOBODY JOINED HIM? SAT AT THE NEXT TABLE, SAY?

BERT: NAH. WE WASN'T, LIKE, BUSY. SOMETIMES HE WAS THE ONLY ONE IN. ALWAYS SAT IN THE CORNER BOOTH, ON HIS OWN.

AMI: WHAT ABOUT STAFF? ANYONE PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY WITH HIM?

BERT: THERE WAS POOCH. SURE, POOCH. I SEEN 'EM LAUGHIN' AN' JOKIN' OFTEN ENOUGH. COURSE HE HAD PLENTY OF TIME ON HIS HANDS. LIKE I SAID, WE WASN'T BUSY.

AMI: POOCH?

8. Just Burt.

BERT: THE WAITER. HE WAS THERE WHEN I STARTED, STAYED RIGHT TILL THE DUMP CLOSED.

PAGE 10

1. A big bulking guy, Bert's brother JOBEY, comes past, carrying a slab of meatlike stuff over his shoulder. He wears white, blood-stained chef's gear. His nose has been sliced off and there's a big scar across his forehead, like somebody sliced open his skull, which they did. As a result he's pretty moronic.

BERT: HEY, JOBEY, OL' POOCH FROM THE HORSE – WHAT WAS HIS LAST NAME?

2. Jobey stops. He sees Ami, is stunned. A gob of drool drops from his lip.

JOBEY: HUNNH?

BERT: THIS IS JOBEY, MY BROTHER. GOTTA EXCUSE HIM, HE AIN'T ALL THERE – FREAKIN' COOK WENT BUGFUX WITH A CLEAVER BACK IN '11, WHEN WE HAD THE HOTTIE BAR.

LINK: HEY, GO ON, YA BIG LUNK, GET THAT INNA FREEZER BEFORE IT SPOILS.

3. Jobey goes off. Bert remembers. Ami, we notice, has her lie detector in hand.

BERT: FIDO! THAT'S IT! FIDO KEFLER. FIDO – POOCH – GET IT? DON'T ASK ME WHERE HE IS NOW.

AMI: WE'LL FIND HIM.

LINK: AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, MR DELONG – YOU HAVE OCCASION TO TALK WITH PORTNOY? DISCUSS BUSINESS, MAYBE?

4. Ami's lie detector in fg. Bert smiles, he's not worried.

BERT: ME? NO! PERSONALLY I COULDN'T STAND THE GUY – FREAKIN' FRUITBALL! AN' YOU CAN CHECK ALL THE LIE DETECTORS YA LIKE.

5. Outside, Dredd and Ami at their bikes.

AMI: WELL, IT'S SOMETHING.

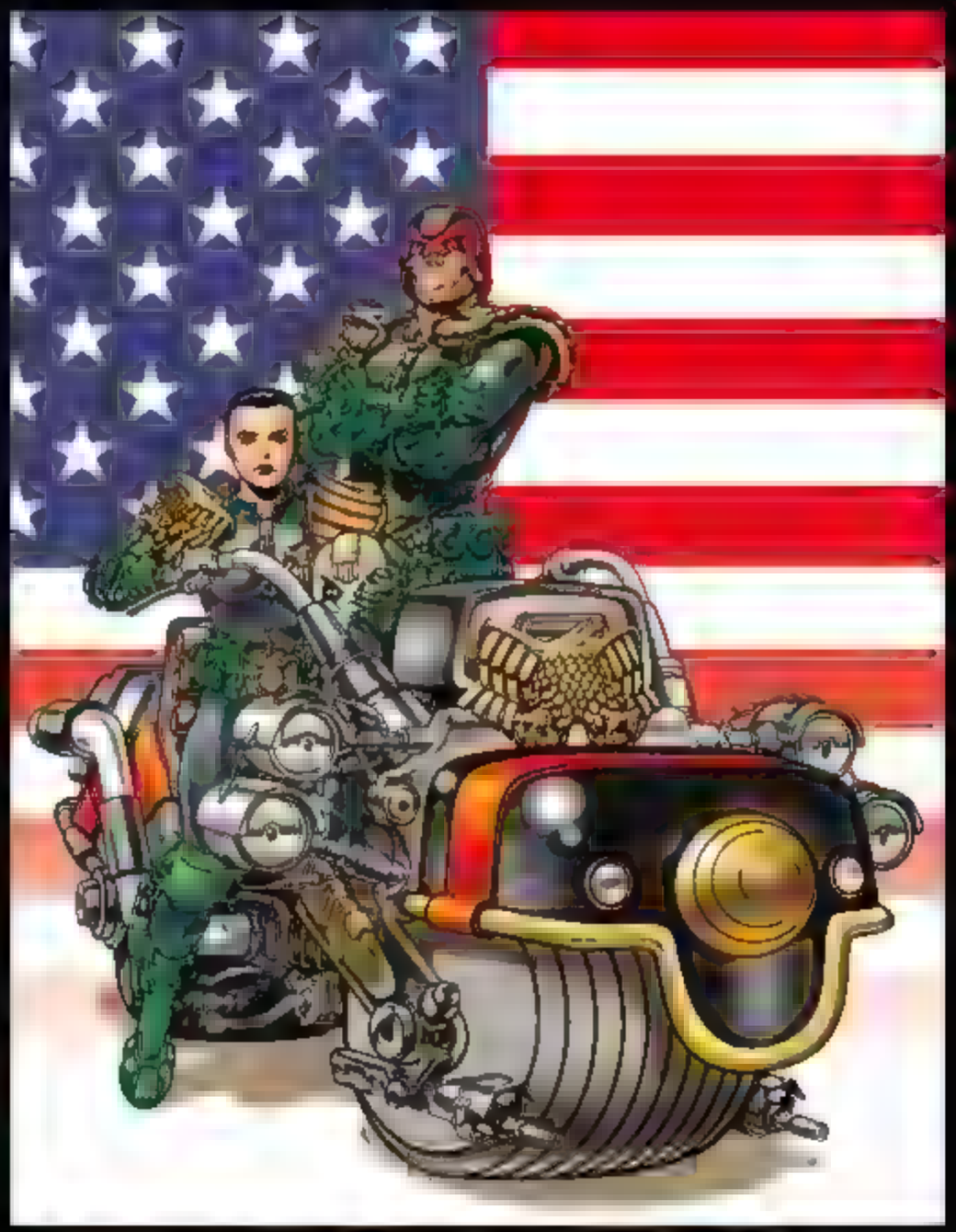
LINK: LET'S FIND THE POOCH.

6. In the kitchen Bert enters. He sees Jobey with something in his hand. Jobey tries to hide it.

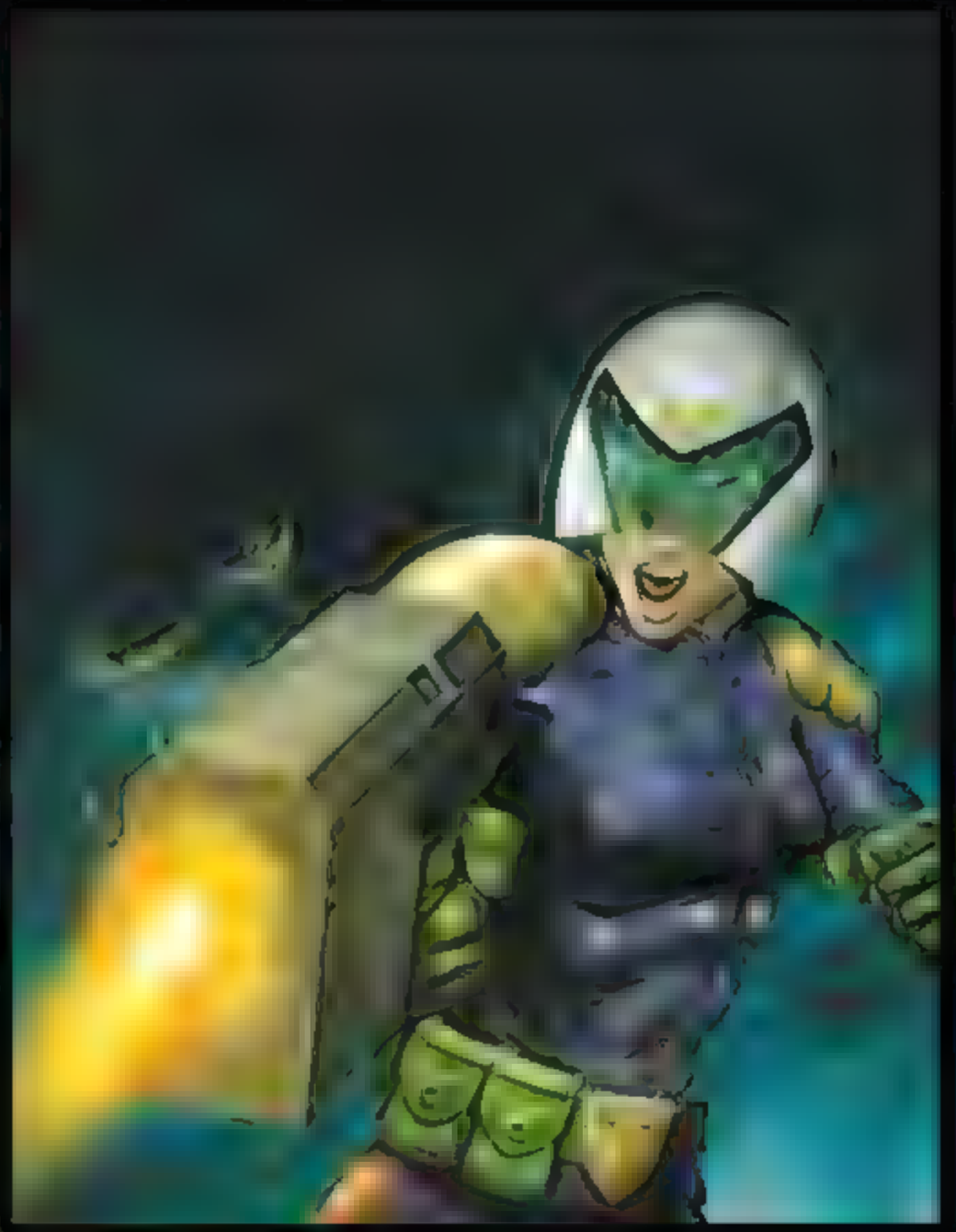
BERT: WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? WHADDA YOU GOT THERE – ?

7. Bert's hand grabs Jobey's and forces it down into fg. The hand is clutching a much worn and creased photograph – of America (Ami's mother). Just show the men's hands, no more is necessary – make the photo big.

BERT: WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' WITH THAT?



Judge Dredd Megazine Issue 250: Cover by **Cliff Robinson**



Judge Dredd Megazine Issue 252: Cover by **Karl Richardson**

Sketches by **Colin MacNeil**

JOHN WAGNER

John Wagner has been scripting for *2000 AD* for more years than he cares to remember. His creations include *Judge Dredd, Strontium Dog, Ace Trucking, Al's Baby, Button Man* and *Mean Machine*. Outside of *2000 AD* his credits include *Star Wars, Lobo, The Punisher* and the critically acclaimed *A History of Violence*.

COLIN MACNEIL

Since joining *2000 AD* in 1986 **Colin MacNeil** has worked on many strips, including *Chopper: Song of the Surfer* and the infamous death of Johnny Alpha in *Strontium Dog: The Final Solution*. He went on to collaborate with John Wagner on the award-winning *America* for the *Judge Dredd Megazine*. He has also worked on *Shimura*, *Maelstrom* and *Fiends of the Eastern Front: Stalingrad*, and, outside of the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, provided the atmospheric artwork on *Bloodquest* for Games Workshop. He also enjoys creating large abstract paintings. He says it's art therapy!

Novus Year Two

What once was one,
is now two.